



GENERAL'S FIRST LADY

The woman holding the key to Colin Powell's White House hopes, **P17**



SUPERSTORE STYLE

How Selfridges shook off the stuffy image
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MARRIAGE ON TRIAL

Simon Jenkins on why Lord Mackay is right on divorce, **PAGE 18**

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THE TIMES

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Select committee rejects Nolan plan

Labour woos Tories on pay disclosure

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

THE Government faces a cliffhanger vote in the Commons on Monday when Labour MPs will try to press Conservatives to vote with them on the disclosure of their outside earnings.

The campaign will be launched today after the Conservative-dominated select committee set up to consider parliamentary reform rejected the key recommendation that such disclosure should be mandatory.

Labour immediately gave notice that it would table amendments to the select committee's report to give all MPs an opportunity to vote on the proposals put forward by Lord Nolan after his inquiry into parliamentary "sleaze".

It is writing to some 100 Tories in marginal seats asking them whether they back disclosure, and urging them to declare their outside earnings related to their parliamentary activities.

"If we have to embarrass and shame them, so be it," a Labour source said.

Labour also accused the Government of watering down Lord Nolan's recommendations over former min-

isters taking jobs in the private sector.

The possibility of losing the vote, and being forced to reveal how much they receive from consultancy work, is causing dismay among Conservatives. They say it would be an intrusion of their privacy, and the first step towards stopping them doing any outside work, which they say is necessary to supplement their parliamentary salaries of £33,189.

Dark threats are being issued that being forced to disclose earnings could prompt a mass resignation of MPs at the next election.

Although officially it has been declared a free vote, in fact it will be the opposite and massive pressure will be exerted on Conservative MPs to ensure that they attend the debate. Similarly, Labour MPs are already being urged to drop any plans they had to be away from the House. The outcome could hinge on the minority parties and several Ulster Unionist MPs have already said they will not be there.

Only a handful of Conservative MPs have backed the

open disclosure of earnings, although some ministers fear that number will grow if they come under pressure from the press this week.

Members of the select committee received the final draft report in the name of Tony Newton, its chairman and the Commons leader, yesterday afternoon. It contained the plans agreed between both sides of the committee for a broad ban on advocacy — MPs being paid to represent the interests of companies and lobby groups.

The committee, which has been meeting all through the summer recess, also proposed that MPs could continue to earn money from consultancies, provided the work was classified as being advisory. But on the key question of whether they should disclose how much they earn from such work the two sides agreed to differ, with Labour making it plain that they would give the full House an opportunity to decide.

Last night it appeared that the Government had made a late concession to Labour, agreeing that the new rules should come into force at the end of the year rather than after the General Election. Mr Newton meanwhile claimed that there was "a lot of agreement" over the select committee report.

Ministers will argue that because the select committee representing all parts of the House has agreed a report, Conservative MPs should back it and not go along with Labour's attempt to turn the issue into a straight party political fight.

Labour, which is relishing the opportunity of a fresh attack on the Government over "sleaze", is to use the Prime Minister's apparent original acceptance of the Nolan recommendations as ammunition in its campaign. He told the Commons: "I don't just accept the broad thrust of Nolan. I agree with it."

A senior Labour source said: "If we win Monday's vote we win. If we lose Monday's vote we still win because the public will see this as Tory MPs trying to cover up things from their constituents."

Meanwhile Sir Gordon Downey, a former Comptroller and Auditor General, was named as the first parliamentary commissioner for standards, a post proposed by the Nolan committee.

Sir Gordon, 67, will receive a salary of £72,000 for a four-day week. He has said that he can start work within two weeks and will be responsible for monitoring the Register of MPs' interests and providing induction courses in "conduct, propriety and ethics" to new MPs.

Peter Riddell, page 10



The Duke of Northumberland with the actress Barbara Carrera, one of a series of glamorous women in his life

Man-about-town Duke dies at 42

BY LIN JENKINS

THE Duke of Northumberland, one of the most flamboyant yet enigmatic members of the British aristocracy, died at his London mansion Syon House yesterday. He was 42 and had been in poor health for some years.

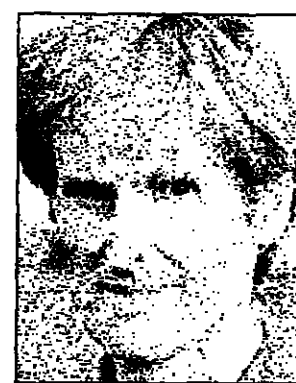
Henry Alan Walter Richard Percy, who succeeded to the title seven years ago, had embraced both the traditions of his birthright and the pursuits of a wealthy bachelor-about-town.

But he had complained of debility caused by an ME-type illness that had afflicted him since university days, and had also received treatment for depression.

A statement released by the family said that he had died peacefully, but neither the cause of death nor any further details were released. Scotland Yard said a post-mortem examination would take place



Valerie Campbell: numb with shock



Ralph Percy: becomes the 12th Duke

tomorrow, but the death was not being treated as suspicious. Arrangements for the funeral will be announced later.

Ralph, the elder of his two younger brothers, will become the 12th Duke. Aged 39, he lives on the family estate at Alnwick with his wife and their two sons and two daughters.

He is fond of the rural sporting life and has extended the family grouse moors.

Often dubbed Britain's most eligible bachelor, the late Duke was linked with a series of glamorous women, including the actress Barbara Carrera and more recently Valerie Campbell, mother of the model Naomi. Ms Campbell

said last night that she was "numb with shock". "I doubt if I will ever meet a more intelligent and witty man. He was a very, very sweet man and was always extremely charming. I shall deeply miss him with all my heart." She added that she had seen the Duke at the Savoy last week and they had spoken on the telephone on Saturday when he had seemed "his normal happy and warm self".

As a young man, the 11th Duke led a vigorous life following traditional country pursuits, such as shooting on the 100,000 acre estate around the imposing Alnwick Castle. He also hunted with his pack. The Percy.

When illness dictated a more sedate life, he embraced his passion for the cinema. His home was used as a set for

Continued on page 2, col 3

West tells court of hatred for 'devil' husband

BY RICHARD DUCE AND BILL FROST

ROSEMARY WEST spoke yesterday of her abiding hatred for an evil husband she now regards as the Devil after learning that he confessed to the murder of ten young women and girls, including their daughter.

She said she never suspected that her husband Frederick was a killer but once she discovered the truth from police, she said: "I hated him. I just couldn't believe I could hate anyone so bad."

Mrs West, 41, who denies ten murders, told Winchester Crown Court that she refused to see her husband in prison and once they were jointly accused could not bear to be in the same dock when they appeared on remand.

She said: "I didn't want to know him. I didn't trust myself with him in his company and felt that I'd at least have a go at him. The worst thing was going to court. We sat in the dock together and I requested that there be prison officers between us. I didn't see the man I'd known for all those years. He was just a walking figure of evil. It may seem daft but I saw him with horns complete with a satanic grin."

Asked by Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, if her views had changed since her husband's death, she said: "No sir, certainly not. I'm still very angry with him. It will take many years for that to go."

The prosecution allege that both Wests were involved in the murders of Charmaine, their daughter Heather, 16, and eight other young women. All but Charmaine were buried at the couple's home at 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Mrs West said: "I couldn't take someone's life, especially my own daughter."

Diary, page 18

Cross-examination, page 3

Labour plans to extend tax-free savings schemes

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR will today announce plans to extend tax relief for personal savings schemes in what will be seen as a further foray into Tory territory.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, will disclose that a Labour government would not only keep the Tessa and PEP schemes set up by the Conservatives but extend them and make them available to a wider number of people.

There has been speculation that Labour would scrap both the tax-free medium-term savings plans. Mr Brown will make clear that the party has no intention of penalising those with small savings, but wants to find new ways of encouraging people to provide long-term investment funds for British firms.

In addition he will disclose ways of building on the current private finance initiative to encourage more private investment in public sector projects. He is expected to give details of more favourable rates for private investors backed by a new task force to oversee the schemes.

Over the next few weeks in the run up to the Budget on November 28 Mr Brown will announce a series of policy

initiatives focusing on plans to encourage employers to take on the jobless, schemes to get people off benefit into work and further tax proposals.

Today Labour has taken out a full-page advertisement in *The Times* criticising Britain's current economic standing in the world. The advertisement publishes a world prosperity league, based on national output per head, which shows that since 1979 Britain has slipped from 13th to 18th place in the table of OECD countries plus Hong Kong and Singapore.

The text running underneath the league table reads: "If you'd slumped to 18th, Wouldn't you get new management?"

Today Mr Brown will reiterate Britain's economic position in relation to other countries, describing "the humiliation" of slumping so far. He will argue that the best way of addressing the problem is not to take a penny or two off income tax. "The best way the Government can sustain recovery is by encouraging the higher levels of investment which our economy needs."

Advertisement, page 9

Lloyd's names win £300m

Nearly 2,000 Lloyd's names have won an estimated £300 million in compensation in a High Court action against Ernst & Whinney, now part of Ernst & Young, together with other defendants, including Stephen Merrett, a former deputy chairman of Lloyd's.

This is the first time that auditors have been found liable to pay compensation.

John Mays, chairman of the syndicate names association, was "delighted". Page 25

British protest at death sentence

Britain has condemned Nigeria's military regime for sentencing Ken Saro-Wiwa, the writer and human rights campaigner, to death after what Whitehall dismissed as a "flawed" judicial process.

A military court found Mr Saro-Wiwa guilty of plotting the murders of four of his own Ogoni people. Page 15

Wembley may lose place as top arena

BY JOHN GOODBODY, SPORTS NEWS CORRESPONDENT

WEMBLEY Stadium will lose its chance of becoming the site of Britain's top new national sports arena unless its owners give way in negotiations over creating the new venue.

After more than 70 years as the most famous stadium in the country, the owners have been warned that they face relegation in a fight against their Manchester rivals.

Wembley Stadium Ltd, and a group backed by Manchester City Council, are the front-runners to build the country's flagship sports arena for the next century. Three other cities, Birmingham, Bradford and Sheffield, failed to meet requirements.

Under present proposals, Wembley will donate the site in return for a deal allowing it to operate the stadium in the 21st Century. But unless it is prepared to compromise over

the details of the deal, the 10-man panel responsible for choosing the site have threatened to opt for Eastlands, Manchester.

The Wembley plan involves demolishing the arena, which was built in 1923, and erecting an 80,000-seat stadium. However, Manchester, which on Friday will almost certainly be awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games, is promoting itself as the cheaper option and has already spent £30 million of government money on its site during its failed bid for the 2000 Olympic Games.

The final decision on the venue, which may stage Olympic Games, World Cups and world athletics championships, is expected in about six months, with the stadium being completed by 2000.

Wembley waits, page 48

Canada licks its wounds after narrow victory

FROM TOM RHODES IN MONTREAL

THE Canadian Cabinet held a day-long crisis meeting yesterday after a referendum on independence for Quebec was defeated by a margin of 1.12 per cent.

The result, in which just over 53,000 voters tipped the balance in Canada's favour, left deep divisions in Quebec. Jean Chretien, the Canadian Prime Minister, said his government was prepared to seek fresh constitutional

change for Quebec and called for a new national unity. But Jacques Parizeau, the Premier of Quebec, in a defiant reference to the failed 1980 referendum said: "We won't wait 15 years this time. We will get it, our country."

Tension, which had built throughout the night, finally spilled onto the streets of Montreal early yesterday. Riot police were called to prevent a clash between rival groups near the centre of Montreal and the office of

Daniel Johnson, organiser of the pro-federal campaign in Quebec, was set on fire by protesters.

Shop windows in St Catherine Street were smashed, eight people were arrested and one policeman injured. The two sides had faced each other across the street. A young crowd, chanting "losers, losers" sparked immediate reaction from the French-speaking supporters who grabbed and trampled on Canadian flags.

Opponents of secession won 50.56

per cent of the vote with 49.44 per cent taken by separatists, according to preliminary official results. The number of votes cast against sovereignty totalled 2,360,714 while 2,308,266 voted in favour. Some 86,338 ballots, or 1.82 per cent, were spoilt. The turnout of more than 93 per cent, surpassed the previous record 85.6 per cent vote in a similar poll in 1980.

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Leading article, page 19

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TRADE INDEMNITY

Commons takes a trip in search of something harder

DRUGS dominated Questions to Ministers at the Commons yesterday. Few MPs could leave the subject alone. Within minutes of Prayers, Labour's irrepressible Paul Flynn (Newport W) led in gently with a question to Health ministers about a chemical substance of a respectable kind: paracetamol. What could be done to prevent what he called "paracetamol abuse".

Abuse? What did he mean? Had Mr Flynn's constituents taken to placing packets of

paracetamol on their bathroom shelves and screaming insults at them? This struck us as unusual behaviour, even in Newport. We discounted the theory. "Abuse" has taken on a special meaning these days, of course. Was Flynn concerned that people were dragging unconsenting bottles of pain-killers into unnatural acts of a sort at which he only dared hint in a polite legislature? Again, the thought seemed absurd.

Further study of his question (about nausea-inducing



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

safeguards which could be built into the drug did uncover Flynn's meaning. He was worried that voters are taking overdoses of paracetamol in order to kill themselves. In this sense paracetamol abuse is an alternative to razorblade abuse, shotgun-abuse, exhaust-fume abuse, or Empire State abuse, although Mr

Flynn did not suggest how the Government might render blades, bullets, fumes or skyscrapers harmless. Dr Sam Galbraith (Strathkelvin and Bearsden, Labour's bald brain-surgeon who once remarked of his famously dotty former colleague, Ron Brown "I can do nothing for him") moved us

on to harder drugs: Galbraith was anxious about the NHS prospects for something called beta-interferon.

In your sketchwriter's youth, beta-interferon would have been the name of a punk rock band. I wondered, now, whether this might be a nickname for a particularly effective Commons heckler: Andrew Mackinlay (Lab, Thurrock) might play Beta Interferon to Dennis Skinner's Alpha Interferon. But no: the context was relentlessly medical. We understood

little. We did, however, understand Delta Interferon, otherwise known as Michael Fabricant. To Labour cries of "stupid boy," the Tory Member for Mid Staffs with the amazing hairdo and showbiz manner shrugged off the sobriquet Absolutely Fabricant and launched an attack on cannabis. "Does Clare Short inhale?" he asked, summoning up what gravity lies within his reach.

I looked down at Fabricant's staring eyes, Bowie's puffy indignation

and the banshee Tory benches, lost in a euphoria far removed from their desperate plight. Opposite, Labour were squawking and giggling. The Liberal Democrats were staring blankly into space. Is Party Politics, do you suppose, a sort of drug? Have they all taken something which bends perception, blocks thought-process, and tips victims towards weird reactions and irrational speech-patterns? What are they all on, that they should be in Britain yet strangely

removed from it? Whatever it is, it's addictive. Tory Blair needs no amphetamines such as the buzz from new Labour that he's totally wired and permanently on the ceiling. For Mr Major — Douglas to Blair's Zedee and Europe's more spaced-out premier — marijuana would be superfluous. Yesterday Major told a backbench crawler that those who experiment with soft drugs may go on to harder things. The Tory Right, sitting all around him, certainly hopes.

New triumph for Tory Right

Cabinet retreats over 'liberal' divorce reforms

By NICHOLAS WOOD AND PHILIP WEBSTER

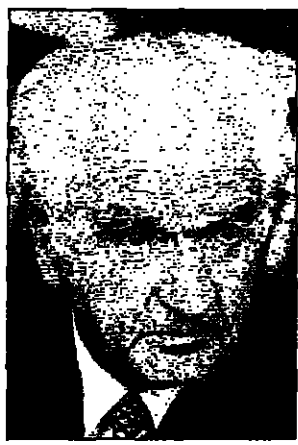
MINISTERS were on the brink of retreating last night from their plans for the biggest overhaul of the divorce laws for 25 years.

Amid mounting pressure from Conservative MPs and some ministers for the proposed "no fault" Divorce Reform Bill to be dropped or drastically amended, a decision could come at an emergency Cabinet meeting pencilled in for next Monday, before John Major flies to New Zealand for a week-long visit including the Commonwealth Conference.

A meeting today involving the Prime Minister and his business managers, which had been expected to discuss the Bill, has been cancelled. Ministers are understood to be studying ways of escaping from their commitment to change the divorce laws in the next session of Parliament while saving the face of Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor.

One option is to abandon the Bill, which, in the eyes of many traditional Tories, makes divorce easier by removing the concept of fault and by reducing the maximum waiting period from five years to one year. But this would be a savage rebuff to the Lord Chancellor, who only last week was forced to withdraw temporarily his Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill in the face of Tory protests that he was putting unmarried couples on the same legal footing as married people. Today, he will table amendments to the Bill in an attempt to rescue its uncontentious parts, but with this year's session drawing to an end, he cannot be sure of salvaging anything.

Prominent Conservatives



Mackay: architect of divorce proposals

said yesterday that they believed Lord Mackay's position would be "untenable" if his divorce reforms, which have been on the stocks for at least five years, also bit the dust. However, senior ministers discounted the possibility of his resignation.

John Redwood, a former Cabinet minister, yesterday floated compromise proposals that are believed to be under scrutiny by ministers. He suggested that retaining the concept of fault and ensuring that a year was the minimum waiting time, compared with the few months of current "quickie" divorces where fault is admitted, would defuse backbench opposition. Mediation — non-adversarial talks about the practicalities of dividing up the family home — and delaying divorce decrees until after agreement had been reached about the custody and maintenance of any children involved could be salvaged from the original proposals.

Ministerial sources indicated last night that in the face of criticism, Lord Mackay was prepared to be flexible about

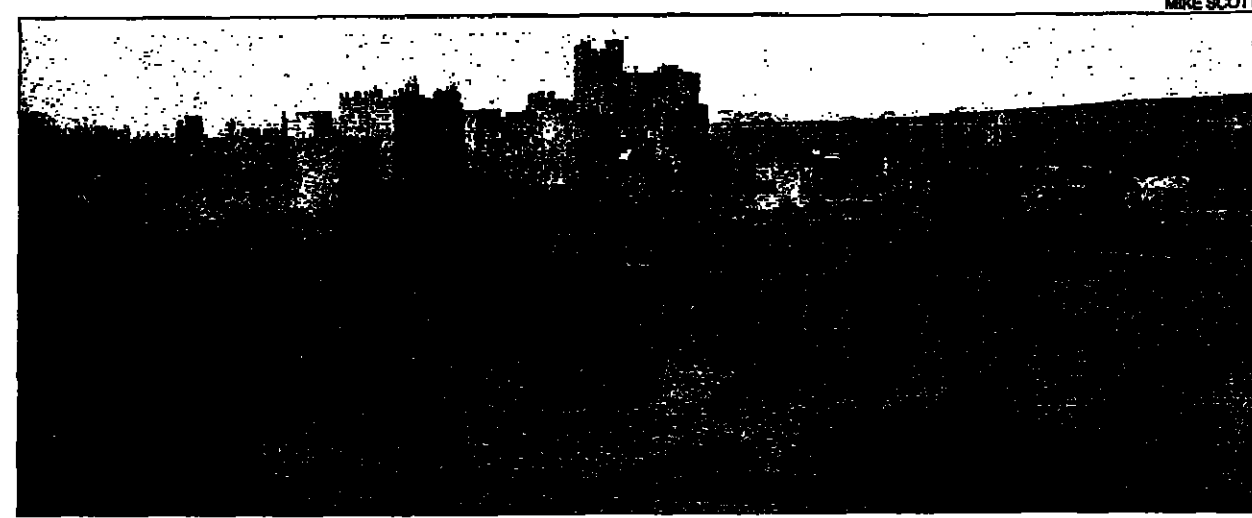
his proposals. It was said that he might be prepared to extend the waiting period for a divorce to more than the initial one year.

Mr Redwood said on BBC radio: "There are a lot of parliamentary colleagues very nervous about no-fault divorce on a fairly speedy timetable, and that is the aspect of the White Paper proposals which I trust the Lord Chancellor will address, perhaps by re-drafting the legislation so colleagues are reassured."

In a marked change of tack, senior ministers yesterday dropped their insistence that the divorce Bill would certainly figure in the Queen's Speech. Instead they were emphasising that it could be a casualty if the Budget, due on November 28, throws up new legislation that would crowd the Government's programme. It was made plain that while some Bills could not be dropped, divorce was one that could go if the programme was too heavy. This was the clearest indication of the view of a substantial number of ministers that the Bill should not proceed in its present form.

Roger Gale, Tory MP for Thanet North, underlined the scale of the opposition to Lord Mackay's proposals. "There is a strong and growing body of opinion that the time has come to draw the line to say enough is enough. We actually have things in this country that we must protect before we lose them completely."

"There is certainly very great concern within the party at every level, about any possibility that would weaken the family unit," he said. "We're in the business of strengthening the family and trying to rebuild the family unit as the cornerstone of society."



Alnwick Castle, with grounds by Capability Brown, inspired the young Duke's love of adventure films

Family with a place in history

By JOHN YOUNG

THE Dukes of Northumberland own more than 90,000 acres centred upon two of England's grandest houses, Alnwick Castle, in Northumberland, and Syon House, in west London.

Housed within the two is a collection of art treasures worth something in the region of £200 million. Just four years ago a "forgotten" Raphael was discovered on the wall of a corridor at Alnwick and valued by experts at between £20 million and £30 million.

The Dukes exemplify "old" money, being the scions of the Percys, one of the grandest, most powerful, headstrong and scheming of English families, whose name reverberates down the chapters of our history. In 1377 Henry de Percy officiated at the coronation of Richard II, was rewarded with the earldom of Northumberland

and promptly launched a series of political machinations, abetted by his son Harry Hotspur.

The Percys continued to play politics during the Wars of the Roses, at first taking the Lancastrian side, then allying themselves with the Yorkists when the tide turned. Under the Tudors the seventh earl was beheaded for supporting Mary Queen of Scots, and his brother, to whom the title passed, died in

the Tower of London. The 10th Earl also spent some 16 years in the Tower after the Gunpowder Plot.

The first Duke, created in 1766, was actually a usurper, one Smithson who took the name when he married a Percy daughter. He became confidential adviser to George III and was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; he spent much of his fortune on enhancing the splendours of Alnwick. Syon

House, one of London's biggest tourist attractions, overlooks the Thames at Chiswick.

John Betjeman once said of it: "You would never guess that battlemented house contained such wonders as are inside it."

Originally built in the 15th century, it was extensively remodelled by Robert Adam in the grandest Palladian style.

Alnwick, with its spectacular fortifications, is set on a rocky precipice above the River Alne. The Duke once said: "Growing up in Northumberland, I was always surrounded by guns and horses and had large estates to roam around on... Stimulated by the stories of family chivalry and historic events, I became captivated by Westerns and adventure films."

Diary, page 18



Syon House was remodelled by Robert Adam

Death of bachelor-about-town Duke

Continued from page 1

of Kevin Costner's *Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves*. The Duke set up Hotspur Films and sank £2 million into *Lost in Africa*, a feature film shot in Kenya, Zimbabwe and Botswana about a tourist party kidnapped by ivory poachers. He played one of the tourists, but despite his

enthusiasm, the production secured neither critical acclaim nor a general release.

Friends described the Duke as a renaissance man of the old school with wide-ranging interests and he was equally at home in the Northumberland countryside and on the London party circuit. In one of his last interviews,

however, he described his frustration at periodic bouts of illness. "I feel very tired frequently and can't do things. It is very frustrating and depressing if I let it get on top of me. All I can do is lie down and have a rest."

At Alnwick, his death was greeted with sadness. Gerald Curry, 70, a retired vet, said:

"He was a true gentleman who was extremely well thought of in Alnwick. He was a deep thinking and private person who tended to find the best in people. He had the title and the wealth, but he had a keen understanding of basic human nature."

Diary, page 18

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Train journeys 'take longer than six years ago'

By EMMA WILKINS

TRAIN journeys are slower today than they were six years ago before the arrival of the Passenger's Charter, it was claimed yesterday. One service takes longer in 1995 than it did on a steam train in the 1950s, according to Barry Doe, a travel consultant.

In 1950s, the last leg of the journey from Torquay to Paignton took between three and six minutes by steam train, according to timetables from the archive of the National Railway Museum. The journey time remained about six minutes until 1989 when it slowed down to up to 13 minutes. Mr Doe claims that it takes less time to cycle the route, which is just under four miles, than to travel by modern train.

On the six-mile Bournemouth to Poole route, 22 minutes is allowed on the timetable. Cyclists from the Bournemouth Arrow bicycle club average 19 minutes for the same journey by road. One club member, aged 65, completed the journey by bicycle in less time than the train.

Ten out of 12 InterCity routes take longer than in 1989 while the other two take the same amount of time. Mr Doe claims on BBC's *Here and Now* programme, which is due to be broadcast tonight. Timetables have been changed to make journeys longer to prevent passengers from claiming compensation for delays — as they are entitled to under the 1992 charter, according to the programme.

British Rail admitted yesterday that some services are

slower than in the past but said the longer times make the train network more reliable for passengers.

On the West coast Mainline track, the journey from Glasgow to Euston is now 32 minutes slower than in 1989, when it took just five hours and four minutes. Today, the same journey is timetabled to take five hours and 36 minutes.

The Liverpool to Euston trip takes 15 minutes longer this year than it did six years ago when it took five hours and 40 minutes. A spokesman for Great Western pointed out that the same journey can now be done in five hours on the 10.25 service — but this is not comparable with the 1989 rail service because it does not have so many stops.

A British Rail spokesman denied that the introduction of the Passenger's Charter had affected timetables. "It's got nothing to do with the charter — it's designed to provide a better and more reliable service for passengers," a spokesman said.

However, David Smith, a former BR train crew manager, said that the adjustments in timetables were designed to make it appear that targets are being met.

"The motive is to enable the train operating companies to massage their statistics to show their performance in a better light."

Watchdog condemns rail sell-off 'pantomime'

By JONATHAN PRYNN

RAIL privatisation was condemned yesterday by the leading train passenger watchdog as a "pantomime" with no prospect of a happy ending.

Major-General Lennox Napier, the outgoing chairman of the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, said that the sell-off would end up costing the taxpayer an extra £700 million in subsidy.

"So I end rather looking at a pantomime. Pantomimes should have a happy ending. At the moment there isn't a Prince Charming called finance or investment yet in the script," he told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme.

Privatisation "will only work if the Government and private firms will invest at a high level for a long time in the future," he said. "Never has investment in the railway been less. It's half what it was two years ago."

He warned that the industry could not be sustained in the long term on such a level of funding. "I see no clarity or certainty about the funding in the future and this worries me very greatly. There is a political agenda, and they don't walk in step with what the passengers want."

The criticism provoked an immediate response from Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary, who said in a statement that he "profoundly disagreed" with the general's comments. "Far from undermining the railways, rail privatisation offers more opportunities for stronger investment and a better service for passengers," he said.

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Indeed, delegates at a recent Real Estate conference would have to agree that, the venue and the area have some very desirable properties.



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ed from 12. Whatever it is, it's addictive. Tony Blair has been seen in the company of Tony Blair's totally wired and currently on the ceiling. Mr. Major - Dug to space-out Europe's Zebec and Europe's Zebec would be superfluous. Major told a press conference that those who go on to handle the 1996 Right. Sitting around him, certainly

Glimmer of hope 1 Belfast talks leadlock

By Nicholas Watt

and the Government have agreed to meet in more than 100 talks in

Mr. McGuinness, the leader of Sinn Féin, said that the talks were a "step forward" and that the two sides were "in a better position than we have been for some time."

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'Yes, I was very strict on the children. I was very worried about them'

West denies all knowledge of sexual abuse

CROSS-EXAMINATION OF ROSEMARY WEST

AS HER cross-examination by Brian Leveson, QC, for the prosecution, began yesterday, Rosemary West denied any knowledge of the "murders, dismemberment and sexual abuse of young women and children" which allegedly took place at 25 Cromwell Street.

"You never saw anything which alerted you to the horror of what was happening," asked Mr Leveson.

"That's right," she replied. "I never saw anything."

Mrs West denied she had seen evidence of sexual abuse, bodies or bloodstains. "I don't know how he got away with it," she said.

Mr Leveson asked her to explain screams heard in the night by people who stayed at the house. She suggested that the cries could have been made by her children as they played. Her daughter Heather, whose body was the first to be unearthed at Cromwell Street, did suffer from bad dreams, Mrs West said, but she would always comfort her.

Mr Leveson suggested that she had been "utterly and completely" devoted to her husband and remained so until his arrest.

"No sir, that's not right," she said. "He was utterly devoted to you," Mr Leveson said.

"No sir, I don't believe that he was capable of loving anyone," she said.

The QC read from letters written in prison in which

Frederick West wrote: "To my darling wife Rose" and ended "Darling, for ever, my love, you are safe now and forever."

She agreed that when she was having children she never complained to her GP that her husband was abusing her, making her life miserable.

She was then questioned on her evidence that Frederick West tried to persuade her to stay in hospital in June 1972 after she gave birth to her daughter Mae. She said she could not remember on June 5 that he wanted to take her from hospital. She was shown

could provide for us. I did not know how I presented to the rest of the world."

Mr Leveson read extracts from a letter dated September 27, 1992, beginning: "To my darling. Asked if that represented her feelings, Mrs West replied: "Not completely, no. I was in a difficult position. I had had an affair with a man but I wasn't sure whether I could split up the home without hurting the children."

Mr Leveson told her: "Look at the end of the letter please. 'Goodnight sweetheart, lots of love, Rose'. And then did you draw a complex heart with the names Fred and Rose with an arrow through them?"

Rosemary West said: "I don't remember the drawing. Perhaps Fred did the drawing afterwards."

Asked about the evidence of former neighbour Shirley Giles that she ruled the children with a "steel rod", Mrs West said: "Yes, I was very strict on the children. I was very worried about them. I wanted to protect them and look after them and, yes, I suppose I did go over the top with the discipline."

Mr Leveson then read extracts referring to Charmaine in a letter Rosemary West had sent to her husband while he was in prison which included the words: "Darling, about Char, I think she likes to be handled rough."

Mrs West, how rough is rough?" Mr Leveson asked. She replied: "I would just be referring to the fact that she seemed to be a little tougher than Anne Marie."

Mr Leveson: "She likes to be handled rough: does that not mean you think that she prefers to be pushed around?"

Mrs West: "No, I wouldn't have said that about a child."

Mr Leveson: "She was going to go, wasn't she?"

Mrs West said she did not understand the question.

Mr Leveson: "She wasn't going to stay in your family, was she?"

Mrs West: "She didn't want to stay in my family, but I didn't want her there, no. I didn't want to keep a child who didn't want to be with me but wanted to be with her natural mother."

Mr Leveson said: "All that about Rena coming to pick up Charmaine is a piffle, isn't it?"

Mrs West: "No sir, it's the truth."

When Mr Leveson asked if Charmaine's death was an accident "because she was treated a bit rough", Mrs West said: "She didn't die in my care."

Mr Leveson: "You abused that girl, didn't you?"

Mrs West: "Not to the extent that you would like to think, no."

The trial continues.

West denied a prosecution claim that she was the lesbian lover of Miss Robinson, and that she had been jealous of her husband's involvement with her. The bodies of Miss Robinson and the unborn child were found in the garden of 25 Cromwell Street. Mrs West said Shirley had vanished one day, and her husband claimed she left to stay with relatives in Germany.

A prosecution witness has described how Mrs West was seen

gathering up Miss Robinson's belongings after she disappeared from the house. But Mrs West said it was not unusual for lodgers to leave belongings.

Miss Robinson went to live at Cromwell Street around 1977. Mrs West was in the latter stages of her own pregnancy with her daughter Tara in about December of that year. She said Miss Robinson began to help her with her children, which became a regular occurrence. She

became aware that the girl was pregnant, but she did not know by whom. "Fred had told me that Shirley's baby was from a businessman. He was married and did not want a scandal. Fred told me that he was covering as the father until Shirley could decide what she was going to do. I believed it."

West told everyone he was the baby's father, she said. "He made it quite clear to everybody. I thought he was just doing it to protect Shirley. Mrs West said she was "not particularly close" to the girl. "I really saw her as a vulnerable child."

I wanted to protect her until she could sort her life out. In the later stages of her pregnancy, we fell out. She was silly and irresponsible. She wanted to look after my children. She just wasn't capable."

Mrs West later denied all knowledge of the victim known only as Miss A, who alleges she was abused by both Mr and Mrs West at their home while she was in local authority care. "I don't believe Miss A came to the house. If she did come to Cromwell Street, it certainly wasn't number 25."

She denied ever seeing Alison

Chambers, another girl whose remains were uncovered at the West's home. She said numerous people could visit Cromwell Street without her knowing, because lodgers who lived upstairs often had friends and relatives to see them, and the front door was usually left open.

Mrs West, who admits to being bisexual, also rejected the evidence of her lesbian lover Kathryn Halliday, who claimed in court that she was the subject of violent sexual assault by Mrs West. Mrs West said their six month relationship was "100 per cent consensual."

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Rosemary West questioned by Brian Leveson, QC, yesterday. She denied she was devoted to her husband

Tears as court told: I didn't think I was that bad a mum

HEATHER WEST

ROSEMARY WEST said she was told to do the shopping on the day her daughter Heather disappeared, supposedly leaving home to work at a holiday camp. Mrs West said she had insisted that Heather, 16, should not leave until her return so they could say their final goodbyes. She returned to find Heather gone.

"I immediately hit the roof. Fred promised me he wouldn't let her go without me saying goodbye. He just said he couldn't stop her. He appeared to me to be rather ashamed of allowing her to go. He was rather coy and making excuses."

The remains of Heather, who disappeared in 1987, were the first to be recovered by police from the garden of the Wests' home in Cromwell Street, Gloucester.

Mrs West sobbed and paused frequently for long periods as she described Heather's early life at Cromwell Street and the events before her disappearance in June 1987. She said Heather was at school until about four or five months and then attended occasionally to sit examinations.

Richard Ferguson, QC, for the defence, asked how she had got on with Heather. "Not too good at this time," Mrs West said.

Before she disappeared Heather would just sit around the house, Mrs West said. "I wanted her to take some interest in getting a job... but

she didn't want to know. When I tried to talk to her she seemed very offhand, very quiet, she didn't seem to want to communicate with me."

She thought the reason for Heather's attitude was that her daughter disliked her for seeing other men. Mrs West said when she learnt that Heather had got a job at a holiday camp in Devon, she tried to persuade her daughter not to go. "I talked it over with Fred and it was obvious that she was going to go. She had mumbled something about, 'I'm going to go and you can't stop me'."

"I wanted her to have some money on her. I went out and got as much money as I had in the Post Office. I gave the money to Fred and said I wanted to talk to her, a last ditch to try to persuade her to stay."

"He said, 'You go and do the shopping and I will talk to her.' I made him promise not to let her go until I came back, so we could at least say goodbye, and I went out shopping."

In the weeks that followed, she said, they were expecting to hear from Heather as Frederick West had said she promised to keep in contact. Mrs West said her husband told her that Heather was all right and he had sometimes spoken to her on the telephone as well as seeing her in the

Gloucester area. As late as 1992, when West was staying at a bail hostel, he told his wife that Heather had visited him.

Mrs West told the court: "We had a big row about it. I wanted to know why he hadn't persuaded her to get in contact with me. Surely after all that time she could have brought herself to speak to me, but apparently it wasn't so."

Asked if she had heard from Heather again, Mrs West said: "I feel a fool about it now but I believe I did." She said her husband had handed the telephone to her on one occasion saying it was Heather on the other end. She heard a young drunken voice competing with loud background music. "I thought it was

Heather," Mrs West said. "I just kept hoping she'd get in contact with us. I thought she'd get in contact at Christmas but we heard nothing. I felt angry because she'd turned her back on us. I didn't think I was that bad a mum."

"Fred loved Heather and made a fuss of her. He called her his big girl. I didn't believe that he would hurt any of the children."

Mrs West claimed that her stepdaughter Anne Marie had idolised her father and even knowing of his involvement in the murders had visited him in prison. "Even when Fred was arrested and admitted those terrible things, she didn't turn against him. He'd killed her mother and her two half-sisters but it didn't seem to matter to her at all."

Anne Marie Davis, now 31, has told the court that she was abused by Mrs West and her father from the age of eight. Yesterday Mrs West denied assaulting her stepdaughter. "I believe she resented me for coming between her and her father. I thought she accepted me but obviously she never did. She must just hate me."

The court has been told that West is believed to have been responsible for the murder of his first wife, Rena Costello, who was Anne Marie's mother. Her body was found buried in a field close to West's former childhood home, near Hereford. Mrs West is not charged in connection with her death.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Church protest at Playboy channel

The Methodist Church has sold its £800,000 stake in BSkyB because of the satellite broadcaster's backing for a Playboy Channel launched today. It said it was a protest against "material which is designed wholly to provide sexual stimulation and which exploits human beings".

The Playboy Channel will provide four hours programming daily and has been set up by BSkyB, a FT-SE 100 company which is 40 per cent owned by News International, owner of The Times, in conjunction with Flextel and Playboy Enterprises.

Amis funeral

The funeral of Sir Kingsley Amis was held quietly at St Mark's Church, Primrose Hill. Those present included his son Martin, his first wife Lady Kilmarnock and her husband Lord Kilmarnock. Sir Kingsley, 73, spent his last years living with the Kilmarnocks, after his divorce from Elizabeth Jane Howard, who was not at the funeral. A memorial service is being organised by the Garrick club.

Fire warning

A series of 24-hour strikes by firefighters, due to begin on Merseyside today, is set to continue over a five-day night weekend after talks to end the dispute ended in deadlock. Families and teenagers in the area were urged to abandon firework displays on strike days, which also include tomorrow and Saturday. The Army will provide cover with Green Goddesses.

Inquiry call

The National Audit Office has been asked by Labour to investigate the Government's rent-to-mortgage scheme, under which only 13 houses have been sold. The scheme, launched two years ago with a £140,000 publicity campaign, was meant to encourage low-earners to acquire their council homes. Labour said it had been "a spectacular example of incompetence and waste by the Government".

Bomber project

A Stealth bomber is being considered by the Ministry of Defence as a replacement for the RAF's Tornados ground-attack aircraft next century. Stealth technology allows aircraft to be almost invisible to enemy radar. The bomber would come into service in 2010 at the earliest. Flight International, a specialist magazine, claims that a full-scale flying demonstrator is likely by 2000.

Zoo reprieve

John Aspinall has reprieved until Christmas his Howlets Zoo Park, near Canterbury, where a keeper was killed by a tiger last year. He has threatened to shut the zoo if the local licensing authority stops keepers going into the cages. At an industrial tribunal challenging the ruling, he heard further submissions will be necessary, delaying a decision until late next month.

'The silly, pregnant girl I thought Fred was just helping'

FREDERICK WEST said he was pretending to be the father of a lodger's child, to save the girl from embarrassment, Mrs West claimed. A businessman was said to have made Shirley Robinson pregnant and then disowned her in 1977.

Mrs West said: "Fred said he was covering as father of the baby until she could get herself back on her feet. Shirley was young and vulnerable and I believed it. I thought he was doing it to protect Shirley."

She said she did not suspect that her husband could have been the real father of the unborn child. Mrs

SHIRLEY ROBINSON

West denied a prosecution claim that she was the lesbian lover of Miss Robinson, and that she had been jealous of her husband's involvement with her. The bodies of Miss Robinson and the unborn child were found in the garden of 25 Cromwell Street. Mrs West said Shirley had vanished one day, and her husband claimed she left to stay with relatives in Germany.

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Many teachers and pupils have accepted low standards as the norm, say experts

Shepherd advised to close school that is 'beyond hope'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A BOYS' comprehensive is likely to close its doors forever by the end of the year, as the first school to be shut by the Government for failing its pupils. Six education experts appointed to turn around Hackney Downs in east London said yesterday that there was no hope of improvement.

Gillian Shepherd, Secretary for Education and Employment, said she was "minded to agree" but must first hold a 10-day consultation period. Labour backed the decision.

Teachers said they were bitterly disappointed and claimed they had not been given enough time to prove themselves after government inspectors found some improvements in March. All 40 staff face redundancy or redeployment.

Richard Painter, chief

executive of ADT and chairman of the education association appointed in September to run the school, said failure was imbedded in its ethos. Mr Painter put the decision down to the poor buildings which would cost £3 million to upgrade, "uncontrolled" behaviour by some of the boys and "weak management and poor teaching".

He said: "Even more serious is our sense that many teachers and boys at the school have come to accept low standards as the norm and thus have low expectations. The factors which have led up to this are now so deeply embedded it would be impossible to overcome them." There were some able and caring teachers but the boys deserved a better education.

Professor Michael Barber, another of the association

members, said: "An inspectors' report did note some improvements but we were unable to verify them. We thought they must have started from a very low base indeed if these were improvements."

The association recommended that £1 million be found for Homerton House School, the only other boys' school in Hackney, to enable it to take all 200 Hackney Downs pupils and give them extra teaching time.

Betty Hales, the head teacher, said: "I am very disappointed. The staff have always worked professionally in difficult circumstances. We have not had a period of stability in which we could have proved what we can achieve."

The number of pupils has been falling since the school was earmarked for closure by



Pupils at Hackney Downs yesterday: famous old boys include Michael Caine and Harold Pinter

Gus John, education director of Hackney, in October last year. It was relieved on a vote of councillors last June. From 480 pupils two years ago, there are about 200 today. Lesley Douglas, a teacher for 17 years at the school, said: "If we had been given a real

chance, this school could have been a centre of excellence." David Phillips, chairman of Hackney's education committee, said the council would not be fighting the decision. "We are very disappointed at the education association's decision to close the school. How-

ever this brings to an end three months of uncertainty," Estelle Morris, a Labour education spokeswoman, said. "This decision seems the right one in the circumstances and the least divisive." Hackney Downs was the first of the more than 90

"failing" schools to have an education association appointed by the Government.

The school was once among the best state schools in London during the Fifties and Sixties. Famous old boys include Michael Caine, Harold Pinter and Stephen Berkoff.

Opt-out schools praised for value

GRANT-MAINTAINED schools were praised yesterday for running their finances well and keeping costs down. Eighty schools were examined in a National Audit Office report which praised them for "striving to achieve greater value for money".

Many of the schools had made substantial savings on costs ranging from catering to cleaning and fuel supply. None had serious financial or management problems.

However the NAO said there was a "paucity of longer-term financial forecasting" because the schools failed to link the annual budget into their long-term planning.

Schools were reminded that they should hold a register of governors' and teachers' interests if involved with financial decisions. Applying for building grants has been simplified after criticism from the NAO.

Maths students 'have not been taught basics'

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MATHEMATICS students cannot cope with university study because they are not learning the basics at school, academics claimed yesterday.

They said that even students with grade A at A level needed remedial training in algebra and trigonometry to cope with degree courses in mathematics, science and engineering. Children of all ages should again learn mathematical processes by heart rather than relying on calculators or spending time on progressive problem-solving, they said.

The London Mathematical Society called for a government inquiry into the "disastrous" state of teaching in the subject. It also proposed a standing committee to rethink the mathematics syllabus for all schoolchildren.

However, the Government said no students had yet arrived at university having followed the whole National Curriculum, which was introduced in 1988. Mathematics and science A levels were already being investigated.

In the long-running debate over teaching methods in schools, the academics criticise "progressive" ideas, such as the emphasis on long-term investigation and problem-solving. Yesterday's report accused the National Curriculum of being "poorly focused".

There was "unprecedented concern" among academics about how poorly prepared undergraduates were in mathematics for science and engineering. "If standards of preparedness decline, so too will the standard of degrees. If our more able students lag behind those in other countries, British graduates will be unable to keep up with developments in their fields. We will then become ever more dependent on other countries for inventions, specialists and products."

University teachers said undergraduates were leaving school unable to do numerical and algebraic calculations or to solve problems requiring more than one step.

Dr Tony Gardner, Reader in Mathematics at the University of Birmingham and one of the report's contributors, said the curriculum reflected an educational philosophy which said that if some children found a subject hard, it should be made easier for all. He said: "The result is that children don't do algebra or ratios or proofs anymore. When they get to university, it's a bit late to start trying to learn how."

Nick Tate, head of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said there was already more emphasis on algebra for older pupils. "Many of the issues in the report are already on the authority's agenda." But Professor Peter Saunders, Professor of Mathematics at King's College London, said: "You would have to go pretty far to find a mathematician who didn't agree with this report."

Tables fuel exam results disputes

By DAVID CHARTER

SCHOOLS' anxiety about their examination league table performance is fuelling an increase in disputes over GCSE grades, the independent appeals body said yesterday.

More independent and grammar schools are challenging examination boards for not awarding pupils the top grades predicted by teachers, the Independent Appeals Authority for School Examinations said in its annual report.

The authority was asked to arbitrate in twice as many cases as last year but just three of the twelve appeals made by schools on behalf of hundreds of candidates were allowed against examination boards. The vast majority of cases are settled without the need for independent hearings.

A third of the appeals against last summer's grades were by different schools over the same GCSE English literature examination, run by the Midland Examining Group. Many of the problems were attributed to the switch in coursework content from 100 per cent to 30 per cent, and just one of the appeals was allowed.

The report said there had been a shift in recent years to appeals over A and B grades rather than Cs and Ds. It added: "It may be significant that such appeals have been lodged in the main by selective schools, some of them publicly conscious no doubt, but intent also on university application forms and the need to register top GCSE grades."

Dame Elizabeth Anson, the IAAE chairman, said: "The league tables obviously affect things. Some very high-powered schools come in and if everyone has been downgraded two or three grades, it puts the whole school's league table out and that is a matter of concern now."

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Opt-out schools were praised yesterday for running their schools well and keeping costs down. Eight schools were examined in a National Audit Office report which praised them for "striving to achieve value for money". The report said that the schools had made substantial savings on costs ranging from £100,000 to £1 million. None had serious financial or management problems.

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Students not been 'basics'

EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

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Fuel exam disputes

FUEL CHARTER

There have been a number of disputes over the fuel charter. The report said that the schools had made substantial savings on costs ranging from £100,000 to £1 million. None had serious financial or management problems.

However the NAO said there was a "paucity of longer-term financial forecasting" because the schools failed to link the annual budget into their long-term planning. Schools were reminded that they should hold a register of governors' and teachers' interests if involved with financial decisions. Applying for funding grants has been simplified after criticism from the NAO.



Miah: part of a gang bent on revenge, but he did not deliver the fatal blow

Teenager died instantly from single stab wound

Asian given life for racial murder of white schoolboy

By TIM JONES

AN ASIAN youth was sentenced yesterday for his part in the racially motivated murder of a 15-year-old schoolboy.

Badrul Miah, 20, was convicted of murder on a majority verdict although Mrs Justice Steel said she was satisfied the person who inflicted the fatal blow on Richard Everitt had not been brought to justice.

Miah, of Euston, northwest London, had been part of a gang responsible for carrying out violent attacks on white youths. Sentencing him, Mrs Justice Steel said: "A totally innocent boy was cruelly killed for no apparent motive or reason. It was a wicked crime."

The jury was told that Miah had been among a ten-strong Bangladeshi gang who had travelled from Euston to near-by Somers Town, a predominantly white area, with the deliberate intention of causing trouble. The youths were seeking revenge against another

white boy they believed had stolen jewellery.

John Bevan, for the prosecution, said: "Their mood was such that they were prepared to attack any white youth who came their way and presented an easy target. Their blood was up and any white boy would serve as a target. To that extent it was racist but if their prime target was an Afro Caribbean then any Afro Caribbean would have done."

Richard Everitt, the jury was told, had presented such a target. Although big for his age he was "mild-mannered, harmless, chubby and unathletic". The prosecution claimed the gang encountered Richard and two of his friends shortly after they had attacked another white youth.

While his friends were able to run to safety Richard, who weighed 14 stone, was too slow and could not escape. He was surrounded by the gang and stabbed once in the back, with such force the blade went up to



Everitt: too slow to run away from Asian gang

the hilt, seven inches inside his body, causing him to die instantly within yards of his home.

Mr Bevan said a disturbing aspect of the case was the almost total silence the police had encountered when trying to track down the killers. Only two girls, one as young as 13, had the courage to come

forward. Other members of the gang may have returned to Bangladesh.

Shawkat Akhbar, 19, another member of the gang, was found guilty of violent disorder and sentenced to three years' youth custody. A third defendant, Abdul Hal, 20, was cleared of Richard's murder on the order of the judge halfway through the trial and was freed.

After the case, Detective Superintendent Derrick Dale, who headed the investigation, said if any new evidence came to light then the case would be reviewed and could be reopened. Richard's mother, Mandy, said: "The last 14 months have been a nightmare. We hope now to be able to get on with building up the rest of our lives."

Imran Khan, solicitor for both Miah and Akhbar, said they would be lodging an appeal. "Clearly in this case there is room for doubt. The judge's remarks are quite correct. Badrul Miah is carrying the can."

£30,000 fine for cattle dealer who flouted BSE rules

By A STAFF REPORTER

A CATTLE dealer was fined £30,000 yesterday for cheating rules introduced to control "mad cow" disease. Exeter Crown Court was told that David King, who is married to the three-day eventer Mary Thompson, had jeopardised the entire beef export industry.

The rules state that British farmers are allowed to export only beef from herds that have been free of bovine spongiform encephalopathy for six years. They were introduced after Germany and France sought to ban British beef because of concern about BSE, and the Ministry of Agriculture fears unilateral action could be taken against Britain by European Union states if the rules are undermined by false declarations.

The court was told that King declared his cattle had been born and bred at his farm in Exminster, Devon. But an authorising vet at an abattoir asked for checks after he became suspicious at the number of animals being sent for slaughter by King.

It was discovered that King had been buying the animals from local markets and had changed their ear tags to back up his lies about their origins. The prosecution claimed he received an extra £100 per animal for saying they were from BSE-free herds. Martin

Meeke, prosecuting for Devon trading standards department, said: "Most of the animals he had bought and sold on were from herds that were not BSE free. But it would be appropriate to make clear that no animal King sold was suffering, or suspected of suffering, from BSE."

King, 42, one of the biggest dealers in west England, admitted six charges of applying false descriptions. Mr Meeke said: "For a few pieces of silver he has betrayed the farming community and put a substantial industry in jeopardy."

Richard Rains, representing King, said: "He knew they were BSE free. This was not a cavalier disregard of the regulations. He has behaved wrongly but he is the victim of politicking." Mr Rains said that officials in the former East Germany had wanted to stop British exports so they could increase their own sales.

Judge Cornhill fined King £5,000 on each of the charges and ordered him to pay £18,500 costs. He told him that the beef export trade could be sustained only if "our Continental friends could be convinced that the beef was BSE free". He said the consequences of an export ban could have "devastating results for cattle dealers in this country".

New law allows courts to seize ill-gotten gains

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW law allowing the courts to confiscate the assets of criminals comes into force today.

Under the Proceeds of Crime Act, the courts will have the power to strip criminals of all profits from crime up to six years before conviction. If criminals own joint assets with spouses or other partners, the offender's share will be liable for seizure. The measure will also allow police to seek out information from private bank accounts.

Under the new law, courts will have to confiscate the

proceeds of offences where the prosecutor seeks to seize assets. The prosecutor can also apply to the High Court to prevent the dissipation of assets by a defendant even before criminal charges have been laid.

The Crown Court will have discretionary power to make criminals convicted of two offences in current proceedings to account for the origin of all their property. The courts will also have the power to confiscate proceeds that come to light up to six years after conviction.

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Keats: mellow fellow who died young

Keats is revisited in season of mists

By JOHN YOUNG

DOZENS of bouquets were delivered to Keats House in Hampstead, north London, yesterday to mark the 200th anniversary of the birth of one of England's finest romantic poets, who died aged 25.

The sun beamed benevolently on the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness that John Keats landed in his *Ode to Autumn*. As darkness fell, the Friends of Keats House and the Keats-Shelley Memorial Association laid wreaths at Westminster Abbey, and afterwards, in the Jerusalem Chamber, there were readings of his works.

Keats House, whose owner Charles Brown invited the young poet to become his guest, is now a museum which attracts 25,000 visitors a year. In the garden, Keats wrote *Ode To a Nightingale*.

Christina Gee, the museum's curator, said the birthday celebrations began on January 20, the eve of St Agnes, and reached their high point in the summer with events around the world.

A Keats exhibition is at the British Library, and on November 16 the museum is staging a dramatised reading of *Life is but a Day*, a compilation of his poems and letters.

Leading article, page 19

'Dead cow' exhibit is barred from Tate opening

By EDWARD GORMAN

THE Tate Gallery has excluded an exhibit consisting of bits of dead cow from the opening of its annual Turner Prize show because of fears that a potentially harmful chemical could leak.

Damien Hirst's *Mother and Child, Divided*, which is made up of four glass tanks each containing half a cow in a solution of formaldehyde, was to have been the centrepiece of the exhibition.

However in an embarrassment for the gallery, visitors will not see Hirst's principal work until next week at the earliest.

Hirst, 30, is one of four artists shortlisted for the £20,000 prize which is to be adjudicated at the end of this month. The other finalists include Mona Hatoum, a Palestinian exile, one of whose exhibits consists of a 12-minute film taken inside her body.

The Tate which held its press preview yesterday, put a brave face on the absence of the Hirst exhibit, which it describes as a "very important" piece.

Sandy Nairne, a director of

the gallery, said that both he and Hirst were very upset that it was not yet ready.

Mr Nairne said the work had been in storage in Yorkshire since being shown at the Venice Biennale in the summer of 1993. After inspection by the Tate's technical staff in September it was decided that the glass on the two smaller tanks, which contain two halves of a single carcass of a calf, needed to be strengthened to ensure that formaldehyde solution did not leak.

Mr Nairne denied that there had been major problems in assembling the work and put the failure to meet the deadline for the opening down to a delay in the tanks being sent to the Tate from Yorkshire. But he acknowledged the delay was a blow for the gallery.

The Turner Prize exhibition attracts a massive amount of attention from the public and the media, so we are very upset it hasn't worked out.

Mr Nairne also defended the use of dead animals in Hirst's work, something that has enraged animal rights activists whose threatened



Part of Mark Wallinger's entry for the Turner Prize at the Tate. The other finalists are Damien Hirst, Mona Hatoum and Callum Innes

protest at the gallery yesterday never materialised. He said Hirst had made it clear he was sympathetic to animal rights.

"His work is about how we regard animals, how we regard ourselves as animals and our own mortality. I don't

think it's surprising if the works are sometimes things that upset people or cause people to have strong reactions," he said.

The animals used in this particular work were not slaughtered but had died nat-

urally and were not related to each other, he added.

A video of the work of the four artists shown at the exhibition discloses that Hirst who has had problems with formaldehyde leaking from gallery exhibits before, is now

working with decaying animal carcasses not immersed in the solution. He is seen on the video saying: "You can get really fabulous visual effects, but the smell puts you off."

In addition to Hatoum and Hirst, the other shortlisted

artists are Callum Innes, who is showing a selection of abstract paintings, and Mark Wallinger, whose display includes video, photography, sculpture and painting.

Arts, page 33

I'm sorry pensioners have suffered, Kevin Maxwell tells court

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

KEVIN MAXWELL spoke of his regret yesterday over the plight of company pensioners he is accused of defrauding before the collapse of his late father's business empire in 1991.

The youngest son of Robert Maxwell told a jury that he also regretted that neither he nor boardroom colleagues had stood up to the him. But it was his feelings for his father, as well as their business relationship and the creed of loyalty that he had learned, which made him continue to work with the tycoon.

Mr Maxwell, 36, who has been made bankrupt with debts of £400 million, was concluding his evidence

in chief at his trial on two charges of conspiracy to defraud Maxwell Group pensioners.

His greatest regret, he said, was failing to save the empire from collapse after his father drowned in the Atlantic in November 1991. The business crash came, he told the court, when banks withdrew their support even though a Middle Eastern entrepreneur was arranging a £400 million support plan.

Mr Maxwell, who was answering questions from his counsel, Alan Jones, QC, on his twelfth day in the witness box, said: "Our motivation was not, to put it crudely, to sit down and conspire to defraud the pensioners with my father and others. It was

to save the group. It was to maintain the value of the assets and to meet the obligations. No sane person would want to be at the Central Criminal Court on trial for conspiracy to defraud pensioners."

There must have been a time when he could and should have abandoned ship and left his father and the group, but, "if I am being honest, I don't think I had the ability to leave him".

He said the seeds of the collapse were sown in 1990 by his father's decision to use Maxwell Group assets to support Maxwell Communication Corporation, which was having financial difficulties. Kevin believed the corporation should sort out its own problems and said "I

regret I did not have the stature or experience or ability to persuade him" to change his mind.

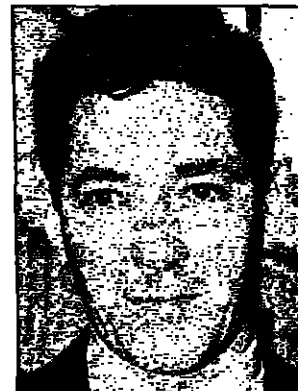
Mr Maxwell said he lost control of MCC and Mirror Group Newspapers and resigned from the MCC board after pressure from other directors, and administrators were called in.

He regretted the consequences for the pensioners who were deprived of their income or feared that they would be, and also for the group's employees, and for the suffering and anxiety they should not have had to endure.

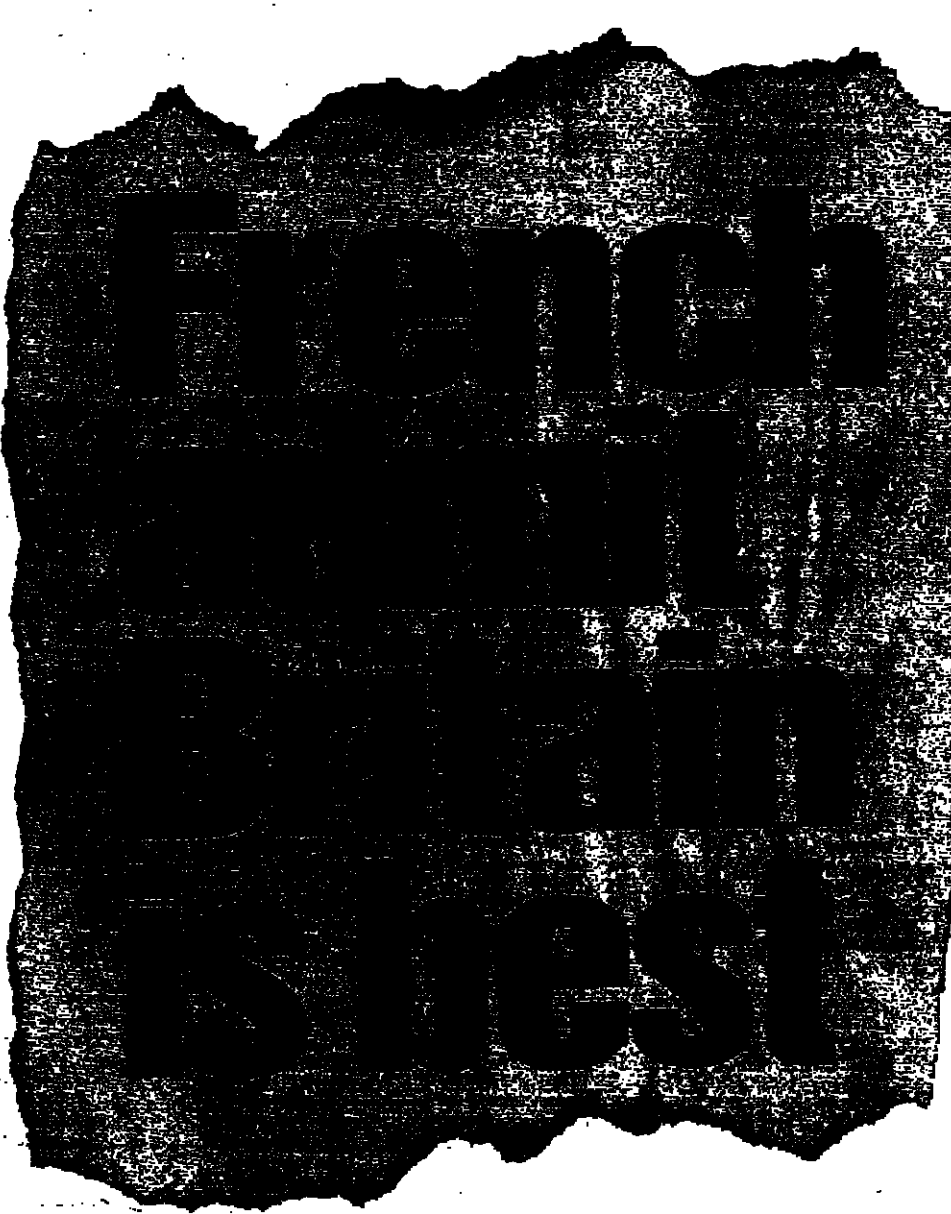
The defendant said he was not trying to compare his own losses to those of the pensioners as, by

comparison, his bankruptcy paled. Kevin Maxwell denies conspiring with his father to defraud pension funds of 5.4 million shares worth £100 million in the Israeli-owned Scitex Corporation. With his brother Ian, 39, and the former Maxwell financial adviser Larry Trachtenberg, 42, he also denies conspiracy to defraud by misusing shares in Teva Pharmaceutical Industries worth £22 million.

Mr Maxwell faces cross-examination by counsel for the two other defendants and by the Crown. The jury was told yesterday by Mr Justice Phillips that it was hoped the trial would finish by Christmas. It resumes today.



Maxwell: regretted he did not challenge father



Until then, there's Glenfiddich to enjoy.

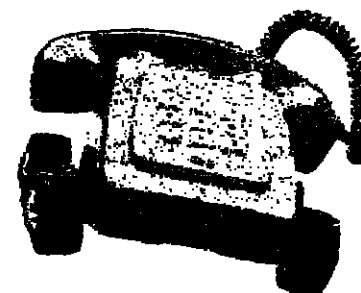


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BY IAN MURRAY

Better links were needed between Customs officers and social workers, to help to identify children on seized videos.

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

Dr Harner and colleagues

That study is being investigated by the Office of Research Integrity of the US health department after one of Dr Harner's colleagues com-

Dr Harner first focused attention on the X chromosome after finding that the homosexual men he studied tended to have more gay cousins and uncles on their mother's side of the family than on their father's. That suggested the trait was inherited through the maternal line, meaning the X chromosome, which men always receive from their mothers. was the



Dr Harner told *Science* that he doubted there would be a fuss "if we were working on any topic other than homosexuality".

MEDICAL BRIEFING

Now that the present high levels of air pollution have officially been cleared by the Health Department of being responsible for the dramatic increase in the number of cases of asthma over the past 30 years, the search is on for

This study at St George's Hospital, London, compared the frequency of attacks in 1,500 patients between the ages of 11 and 16. Those who had old-fashioned feather pillows, eiderdowns or

The Manchester workers have not analysed only dogs' dandruff but have also investigated mattresses. Within four months of buying a mattress it has become home to enough house mites to induce an attack of asthma in a sensitive person; changing the mattress frequently enough to keep the mites at bay would therefore be an impossibly expensive task. The authors suggest that mattresses be covered with mite-proof material which should be washed weekly.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFORD

JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

The payments are disclosed tonight on BBC1's *Here and Now*. In the programme, Pro-

In the table of success rates published last month by the human fertilisation authority, Professor Craft's clinic was among the poorer performers with an adjusted live birth rate of 10.1 per cent compared with an average of 14.1 per cent and a top rate of 23.3 per cent.

Susan enjoyed a glass of wine after a hard day at the office. She was a Nationwide borrower and had been thinking about moving house when she heard the news. "Nationwide have lowered their standard variable rate to 7.95% APR 9.33% (variable) and are rewarding their existing customers with a special preferential discount rate" came a voice from

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her transistor radio. Oh my..." Susan cried
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transcending the old sterile battle between public and private sectors. We need new and lasting public-private partnerships and a Taskforce that will set priorities and get things moving.

And a Budget that will get young people into work and training, using the resources of a windfall levy on our utilities, that will cut the social security bills that come from the scourge of long term unemployment.

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We must equip ourselves for a new age - and move up the league again.

Labour

Tories can blame themselves for anxiety over outside earnings

Many Tory MPs are in a state of high anxiety about the Nolan inquiry's proposals on members' outside interests — but they have only themselves to blame. They have allowed a situation to arise in which the pay of backbenchers, and even more of ministers, has fallen well behind the growth in earnings; and a permissive attitude has therefore developed towards the mushrooming of consultancies. The consequent dubious practices are at last being addressed in the streamlining of the monitoring and disciplinary procedures of the Commons, ap-

proved in July, and in the fiercely contested proposals on outside interests considered by the Select Committee on Standards in Public Life.

But the defensive action fought by Tory MPs against the disclosure of such business interests is obviously in part self-interested because of worries about loss of earnings. These fears are exaggerated since the Nolan proposals are about income earned from consultancies related to Parliament and do not cover separate business or professional interests. It is hard to argue against constituents knowing what their MPs earn as a direct

MPs' ON POLITICS

result of being in the Commons. Whichever way the Commons votes in the short term, the protesting Tories look like being on the losing side eventually. Either they declare their interests, and have to give up some, or disclosure will become a powerful election issue. Some of the claims by angry Tories — about 100 MPs retiring and undermining the sovereignty of Parliament — are nonsense.

But there are genuine worries that current pay levels are putting

off potential good recruits to the Commons, and hence to Government, as Sir Terence Higgins, the veteran Tory MP and ex-minister, highlighted in *The Times* last Thursday. The pay of backbenchers and of ministers is too low by comparison not just with the private sector but also with top public sector posts. Of course, public service has its own intangible rewards, not least to the ego. But MPs' salaries are insufficient to attract the sort of energetic, highly motivated people who have stood in the past. They can often earn more in their mid-20s than the £33,000-odd a backbencher

receives, and by their 30s can earn more than most ministers get. The really politically committed will not be deterred by low pay. There is a danger that the Commons will increasingly be filled by career politicians, those who have spent their whole lives in the political world as researchers and consultants. But people with outside experience will be reluctant to stand, and to suffer a big cut in income, penalising their families at a time of maximum expense. Moreover, a growing number of former ministers are departing from the Commons at the election after they have left office rather

than staying on for one, two or more terms as was previously common. This not only reflects the shrewd expectation that they will not receive office again but also a desire to earn some money while they are still young enough.

This is emphatically not an argument against the Nolan approach. It is wrong for MPs to benefit financially from their privileged position as MPs, especially in a murky and secret way. But these measures will be lopsided unless the Commons deals with pay. Sir Terence has argued that the pay of backbenchers needs to be doubled and that of ministers

trebled to get back to the position relative to average earnings of 30 years ago. Both front benches have been timid because of fears of a populist backlash stirred by rent-a-quote MPs and ignorant tabloid campaigns. It is unfortunate that the Nolan committee did not stretch its remit to include pay, as some of its members privately accept. John Major should either refer the issue to Nolan or set up cross-party talks. At present, he faces the risk of either lingering Tory resentment or vulnerability to Labour attacks.

PETER RIDDELL

Peers accused of abusing their position for profit

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE accusations of political sleaze spread from the Commons to the Lords yesterday when several peers were said to have abused their position to pursue their financial interests.

Lord Carnarvon, the Queen's racing manager, was among hereditary and life peers alleged to have omitted to declare their outside interests to the House during relevant debates.

The Channel Four programme *Dispatches*, screened tonight, reports increasing numbers of lobbying companies paying annual retainers to peers to table questions and amendments. The programme accuses landowners of intervening in debates without stating how they might benefit, and other peers of making profits out of organising dinners for companies that want to entertain in the Palace of Westminster.

The allegations arise as peers vote today on whether there should be a register of members' interests in the Lords — and whether they should continue to be allowed to be paid consultants for outside organisations.

The ancient convention is that personal honour alone

should regulate the conduct of peers. They are expected to mention an interest but they are unaccountable to voters and there are few sanctions available to punish transgressors as there is no party whip to remove. A sub-committee was set up last year, under the chairmanship of Lord Griffiths, to examine whether after recent allegations of sleaze the regulations should be tightened.

Lord Carnarvon is accused of initiating a debate on why plans for the Newbury bypass had been held up, without mentioning that some of his family land runs alongside the proposed route. The programme says that if the Government approved the bypass — which it eventually did — Lord Carnarvon's family would be in a position to make a substantial profit from the building of petrol stations and business parks.

Lord Lucas of Chilworth, a Tory hereditary peer, proposed 56 amendments to the Environment Bill all aimed at reducing the weight of controls on the waste disposal industry. He declared an interest but he did not have to disclose that he was paid an annual retainer of £5,000 by

the Association of Waste Disposal Contractors.

Lord Wade of Chorlton, a Tory peer, also took an interest in waste disposal but although he joked he was a cheesemaker he failed to declare his interest as chairman of Politics International, which has the Energy from Waste Association as a client. Lord Wade was paid £17,000 by Politics International, although he resigned the position this year.

Lord Monkswell, a Labour hereditary peer, lives on his expenses for attending the Lords, known as being "on the social". The Association of PR Consultants told him that he could also get anything from £5,000 upwards if he was prepared to be a "meeter and greeter", host events, network for the company, speak on the floor and be prepared to table amendments. He declined.

Lord McIntosh, a member of the Griffiths committee and Labour's deputy leader in the Lords, said that widespread payments were eating away at the credibility of the Lords. "The rules at present are so vague that unless you almost hand over an envelope with used pound notes you are not actually doing anything wrong."



Peers are also accused of making money out of the main dining room, by charging for bookings. Leigh Mendelson, a public relations consultant, said: "One peer offered me a half-price book-

ing of a hospitality room for £1,000."

Peers have not yet seen the *Dispatches* programme but many were furious on reading some of the transcript. Most Tory peers refused to appear on the programme and were

reluctant to speak on the record but pointed out that they know each other's interests anyway. "Everyone knows my family have lived here for 600 years. Why should I need to declare it," one peer said.

Ombudsman for MPs' standards to earn £72,000

By Arthur Leathley, Political Correspondent

MPs have been forced to raise the salary of the new Commons standards ombudsman to £72,000 after being turned down because they were not offering enough.

Sir Gordon Downey, a career civil servant and a former City regulator, has been appointed as Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to supervise MPs' financial interests and set ethical standards.

His salary, for a four-day week, is higher than suggested by senior MPs who recommended his appointment. The Nolan committee, which proposed the appointment of an ombudsman, suggested a salary matching that of judges (£72,000 to £98,000).

MPs on the House of Commons Commission, responsible for recommending a candidate to Betty Boothroyd, the Commons Speaker, feared that such a salary would anger MPs being paid only £33,189. But they had to scrap plans for a lower salary when the first choice rejected the prospect of doing the job for less than £90,000.

Sir Gordon, 67, a former Comptroller and Auditor General, will start on November 15. He will monitor the register of MPs' interests, advise MPs and provide induction courses in "conduct, propriety and ethics" to new MPs. He



Downey: will monitor financial interests

will also be in charge of initial investigations into complaints against MPs and claims that they have breached the code of conduct.

Sir Gordon, a Treasury civil servant for 26 years, became deputy head of the Central Policy Review Staff for three years. He later became the Comptroller and Auditor General, taking the National Audit Office through a period in which it greatly expanded its investigation of government departments.

In 1990, he became chairman of the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra) before moving in 1993 to chair the Personal Investment Authority for one year.

Job rules for ministers attacked

By Arthur Leathley

THE Government was accused yesterday of retreating from Lord Nolan's recommended restrictions on former ministers moving to the private sector.

The Nolan committee said that former ministers should follow rules that require senior Whitehall officials to seek the Prime Minister's approval

before taking a job within two years of leaving the Civil Service. Although Whitehall trusts dictate that civil servants "must seek approval" from the Advisory Committee on Business Appointments, the new government guidelines suggest only that former ministers "may ask the advisory committee" about appointments.

Labour demanded that the

Government withdraw its guidelines, which were published in an attempt to counter concerns that former ministers were using contacts made while in office to smooth their path into well-paid jobs. The changes were drafted after controversy over the private-sector appointments of former Cabinet ministers including John MacGregor and Norman Lamont. But Labour said the loophole amounted to "a fundamental retreat" from the Nolan recommendations.

Derek Foster, Shadow Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, told a Westminster

press conference that the difference in wording meant that former ministers were under no obligation to consult the committee.

"The guidelines as drafted suggest the Government is trying to escape from its undertakings on Nolan in an area of particular sensitivity," he said. "This latest attempt to avoid implementation of Nolan adds to an impression of a Government desperate to avoid implementing measures which the public rightly expect and demand. This looks like yet another case of ministers caving in to special interests."

Leasehold reform pledged

LABOUR has promised to change the law relating to leaseholders, which it condemns as "throwback to feudalism" (James Landale writes).

In the first of a series of policy proposals on housing, Labour announced measures yesterday that would give leaseholders greater freedom to buy their properties outright and greater safeguards against exploitation.

Nick Raynsford, Shadow Housing Minister, said leaseholders had been betrayed by the Tories, who had promised greater protection. The Gov-

ernment had dragged its feet over reform of laws that were biased towards landlords.

Labour proposes a new form of tenure called commonhold. People living in flats would be able to own their own home individually and also own the whole block of flats collectively with the other occupants. The new tenure would apply to new tenancies and those where leaseholders wanted to change their status.

Mr Raynsford said: "The Tories promised to introduce commonhold at the last election, but despite repeated calls

for action, they have failed even to publish a Bill setting out the basis for its introduction."

Labour promised to simplify the rules enabling leaseholders to buy a freehold, succeeding where recent legislation had failed. Leaseholders would be able to run estates if a majority wanted to.

Mr Raynsford said leasehold was a throwback to feudalism. "Britain is almost alone in retaining this archaic form of tenure. The case for reform to give effective rights to leaseholders is long overdue."

IN PARLIAMENT

YESTERDAY in the Commons: questions to health ministers and the Prime Minister. Debates on the Disability Discrimination Bill, Lords amendments; Proceeds of Crime (Scotland) Bill, all stages; the Criminal Law (Consolidation) (Scotland) Bill, all stages; Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Bill, all stages; Criminal Procedure (Consequential Provisions) (Scotland) Bill, all stages; Statute Law (Repeals) Bill, all stages; Law Reform (Succession) Bill, remaining stages; Private International Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill, remaining stages; Civil Evidence Bill, remaining stages. In the Lords: Criminal Injuries Compensation Bill, report; Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill, committee.

TODAY in the Commons: morning debates on private security industry; manufacturing industry; proposed motorway service area at Lutterworth; firework safety; betting tax and horse racing. From 2.30pm, questions to trade and industry ministers; debates on Gas Bill, Lords amendments; and motion to carry over Channel Tunnel Rail Link Bill to next session of Parliament. In the Lords: Procedure Committee and Declaration and Registration of Interests, sub-committee reports; Medical (Professional Performance) Bill, third reading.

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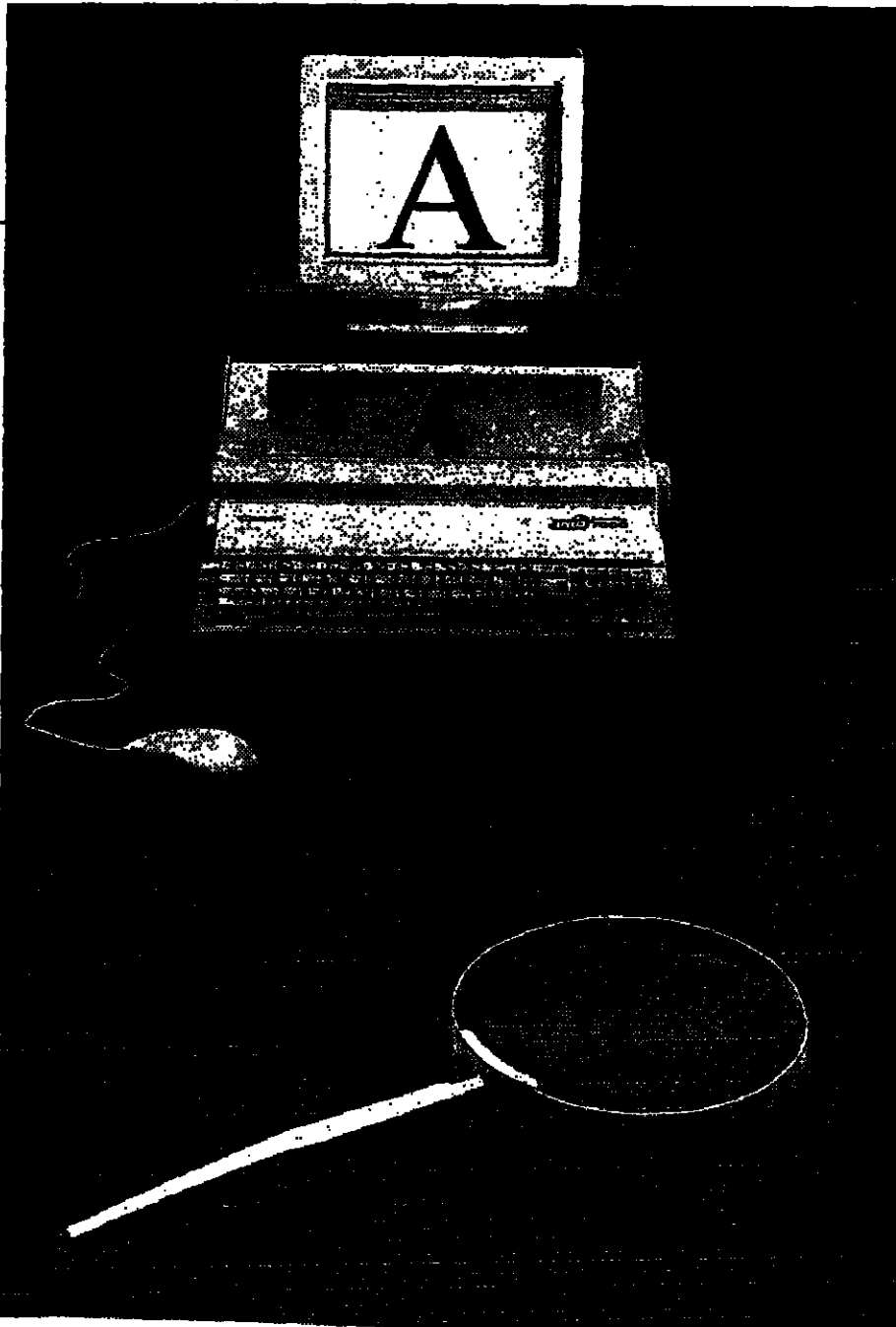
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At 65, the brawler who sang *Camelot* tilts at the younger knights of British theatre

Save us from passionless actors, says rebel Harris

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LAMENT for a lost sense of passion and danger among actors was sounded yesterday by Richard Harris. The irascible Irish actor blamed falling standards on drama schools, screen work and an "undaring" generation of stars.

The fiery performer, who has made the headlines over the years with on-set brawls, singled out Sir Ian McKellen and Sir Derek Jacobi for leading "passionless lives". Although he sensed a return to old ways among some young actors, voice training was sometimes not good enough to show real feeling, he claimed.

Harris, 65, whose latest film, *Cry, The Beloved Country*, has its London premiere this weekend, said that his own generation of actors, including Peter O'Toole, Alan Bates and Albert Finney, had "a great emotional commitment" that showed in their performances.

"There was a danger and



Knighted thespians Jacobi, left, and McKellen. "They led passionless, undaring lives," Harris said



intimidation about their acting," he said.

"Then there was a phase with McKellen and Jacobi. Passionless. They led passionless, undaring lives."

There were also film stars such as Sylvester Stallone, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Warren Beatty, who were "not really actors". He now senses

sparks of passion returning in younger talents such as Mark Rylance, artistic director of the Globe playhouse, Ralph Fiennes, from *Schindler's List*, and Daniel Day-Lewis, whose films include *My Left Foot*.

"The new generation, like Rylance, Lewis and Fiennes, seems to have a commitment and a passion. A danger and

not the softness." But he expressed disappointment that tomorrow's actors were not being taught the art of voice projection.

He compared his days at drama school, when students did two hours of "voice" each day, with today's training: his son's drama training includes just two hours once a week. "You see that when you go to the theatre, Finney and O'Toole have a wonderful voice. The younger actors choke when they have to reach certain emotions."

He exercises his voice every day, "every single day": the voice, he explained, "is your violin or cello; you have to practise it". Fiennes was "a wonderful young actor", he said.

"He has control of his voice but in the high registers, seemed to choke a little."

Television and cinema, which do not require voice projection, are to blame for falling standards, suggested Harris, whose film credits include *Camelot* and *Mutiny*



Richard Harris with James Earl Jones in *Cry, the Beloved Country*. To understand oppression, Harris "dug" into stories about the British in Ireland

of the *Bounty*. His comments came just weeks after he made an attack on Michael Caine, rushing to the defence of Richard Burton and Peter O'Toole, whom Caine had described as drunks.

The London Film Festival is hosting the British premiere of *Cry, The Beloved Country*, based on Alan Paton's 1940s

novel and described as the first major film to come out of South Africa since the fall of Apartheid. Harris met Nelson Mandela, the South African president, at the New York premiere: "He found it a true representation of South Africa at the time. He loved it but found it very painful to watch. He said it is accurate."

Harris insisted that his character should not be the overt racist of the original but take the unquestioning view that blacks "live over there and we live this side".

Trying to understand oppression, he said he "dug" into himself and stories passed down by his family about the British in Ireland.

Preachers line up for award

By Ruth Gledhill

THE final of the Preacher of the Year contest, organised by the College of Preachers and sponsored by *The Times*, takes place in London today. Six finalists will preach before a panel that includes John Gummer, the Environment Secretary and former General Synod member, and the broadcaster Sir Ludovic Kennedy.

Admission to the event, at 2pm at St Pancras Church, Euston Road, is free. The finalists are Dr Alison Fry, who is training for the ministry at Durham; Dr Edmund Marshall, of Wakefield, a Methodist preacher; the Rev Gary Overend, of Leeds; Gill Dascombe, of Stockport, Cheshire, a Methodist lay preacher; the Rev Dr Richard Major, assistant curate of Truro Cathedral; and Canon Jeremy Davies, precentor of Salisbury Cathedral.

The Times Book of Best Sermons (Cassell, £9.99) will be on sale.

Chemist and GP jailed for £1m fraud

By Catherine Milton

A DOCTOR and a chemist who defrauded the National Health Service of £1 million in bogus prescriptions were jailed yesterday. The pair spent the cash on private school fees, cars and business ventures. Prescription fraud is thought to cost the NHS £30 million a year.

Timothy Whitefield, 49, a GP, was sentenced to three years by Leeds Crown Court, and Bryan Samson, 53, to two. Judge Norman Jones told them: "Both of you have let your professions down and disgraced them. These actions were motivated entirely by greed... you treated the NHS as a milch cow."

The court was told that Whitefield, who practised in Armley, Leeds, wrote out thousands of fake prescriptions for Samson, who never dispensed the drugs. The chemist, whose pharmacy was near the doctor's surgery, claimed back cash for the medicine from the Leeds Family Health Service Authority. He paid a third in tax and split the rest with Whitefield.

The pair spent the money on high living. Samson had a £20,000 Jaguar, Range Rover and a Suzuki 4x4 and often gambled £1,000 a week on casino tables. He bought shops in and around Leeds and a pharmacy in York, paying out £710,000.

He was also a member of the Variety Club of Great Britain and made regular trips to London, staying at expensive hotels.

Whitefield, who retired in 1990, sent his three children to private school, had a Volvo with personalised number plates and paid £54,000 cash into his bank.

Suspicion of fraud was aroused by the massive number of forms being processed at the surgery where Whitefield worked - almost three times the national average.

A government clampdown on such frauds has resulted in a new-style prescription.

Checks on faulty gas appliances

A nationwide campaign was launched yesterday to prevent deaths from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by badly installed and poorly maintained gas appliances. Backed by the Health and Safety Commission, it will also emphasise the new legal right of tenants to ask landlords for evidence that a safety check has been made.

Powers libel win

The actress Stefanie Powers, 52, accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages and an apology at the High Court over allegations that she had sexually harassed a former employee. The claims were made in the *Daily Mail*.

Car ban for actor

Simon Gregson, who appears in *Coronation Street*, was banned from driving for six months by Trafford magistrates. Gregson, 21, was stopped on the M56 in Greater Manchester in May after speeding at up to 122mph.

Lottery loser

A man who used part of his £1,900 lottery win on drugs was jailed for 18 months yesterday. Mark Loy, 31, of Edinburgh, admitted possessing amphetamine for his own use and cannabis and Ecstasy with intent to supply.

Cool reception

Water sprinklers have been installed to deter passengers at Victoria coach station, London, from taking a dangerous short cut. Anyone who wants to cross the vehicle entrance will have to walk through walls of icy water.

Talking shelters

Bus shelter posters that talk will help the launch today of the new cable and satellite channel Sci-Fi TV. Speakers inside advertisements for *The Invisible Man* will be triggered when someone approaches.



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valleys or wonderful panoramas. Only the tailbacks are spectacular. But in a car like the Punto Sporting you could be forgiven for enjoying the experience. While waiting in neutral you could look at the racy red dials and the sports steering wheel which packs a 42 litre airbag. Or you could blast Beethoven's Ode to Joy on the 4x30 watt music system. And when the traffic does move, so does the Punto. Its 1.6 multipoint fuel injected engine will get it moving quicker than you can say Dartford Tunnel contraflow. Power steering, central locking, are all standard, and an immobiliser makes sure that only you have fun, and not the car thieves. With Fiat Easiplan you could be enjoying a trip in the Fiat Punto tomorrow. Punto prices start from £7,340* on the road. For more information, call 0800 71 7000 or visit your local dealer. The M25 will never be the same again.



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Congress fires new warning shot over US troops in Bosnia

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday struggled to minimise damage to the Bosnian peace talks — due to open this morning — after a resounding congressional warning that negotiators should not count on American troops to secure a settlement.

Mr Clinton called a White House press conference to insist that up to 25,000 US troops would be deployed: "Our conscience as a nation devoted to freedom and tolerance demands it. There is no substitute for American leadership."

But Monday night's vote in the House of Representatives amounted to a stunning rejection of the very idea of risking American lives in the Balkans.



Gingrich: refused to delay the vote

The congressmen voted 315-103 for a resolution warning the President he should not send, or even pledge, troops without congressional approval. The resolution was supported by 93 Democrats and

all but two Republicans. Many Democrats opposed it only because they were reluctant to undermine the peace talks in Dayton, Ohio.

With memories of military failures in Vietnam and Somalia still vivid, speaker after speaker called the proposed deployment premature, ill-conceived and dangerous. One Republican called Bosnia "Afghanistan with trees".

Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, ignored repeated Administration warnings that the resolution could seriously undermine the peace talks and refused a personal appeal from Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, to delay the vote. He called it "an effort to say to the President: Don't believe you can manipulate us into having to say yes because you give your word in secret without having first educated the American people."

Mr Clinton argued that America's failure to help to enforce any settlement would cause its Nato allies to reconsider their own commitments to Bosnia, undermine the alliance and jeopardise a hard-won peace that would end the worst atrocities Europe had witnessed since the Second World War. If the war reignited, it could spread and spark "the kind of conflict that has drawn Americans into two larger wars this century".

He promised to seek a congressional "expression of support" for deploying troops. He insisted American troops would be under Nato command, have a clear mission and rules of engagement and would "not be asked to keep a peace that can't be kept". He called the talks between the Bosnian, Serb and Croatian Presidents opening today the "best chance we've had for peace since the war began" and "maybe the last chance we have for a very long time".

□ **Impossible task:** The lightly armed United Nations Protection Force in Bosnia-Herzegovina had no chance of saving the UN "safe area" of Srebrenica from being overrun by the Serbs in July, Yasushi Akashi, the outgoing peace envoy, said. It was an "impossible mission", he added, and the designation of safe area was a "misnomer".

Delegates braced for boot-camp life

FROM IAN BRODIE IN DAYTON, OHIO

SERBIA'S President groaned when he heard that the Bosnian peace talks would be held at a US Air Force base outside Dayton, Ohio, in the American heartland. "I'm not a priest, you know," blurted Slobodan Milosevic, whose tastes run to Italian cigars and neat whisky.

The setting for the talks, if not monastic, is certainly austere. The sense of isolation, bordering on incarceration, was increased yesterday by the construction of a high chain-link fence around the so-called Peace Complex.

Housing will be in five identical red-brick barracks with private rooms. Three blocks are for the delegations from Serbia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia, led by Presidents Milosevic, Izetbegovic and Tudjman. The other two are for negotiators. Somebody called it boot-camp diplomacy.

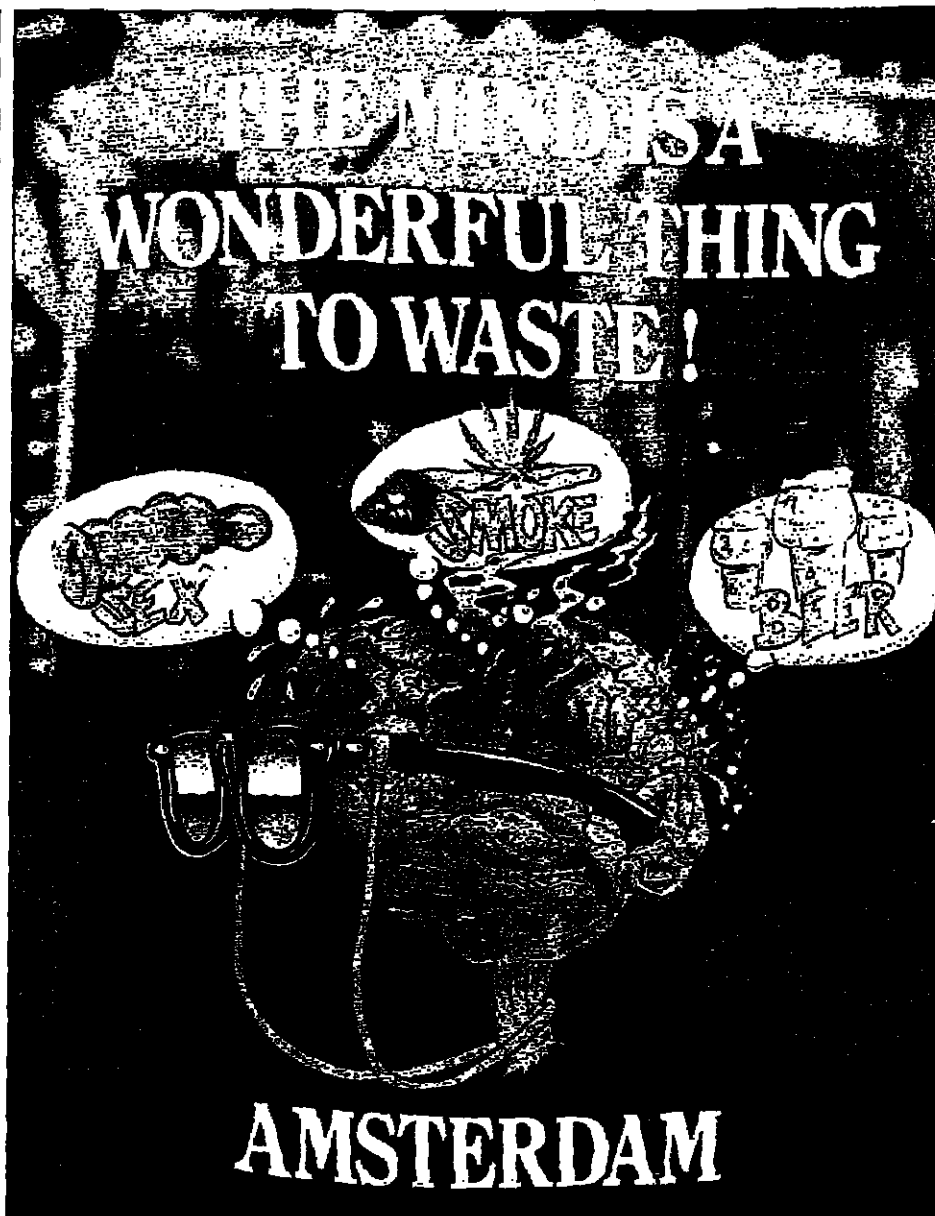
Less than a quarter of a mile away stands the Hope Hotel which could be on the edge of any small American town. Inside is the conference

room where Warren Christopher, US Secretary of State, will host the opening.

Booths for simultaneous translations give an idea of the sensitivities to be overcome. In addition to English, French and Russian, there is one with a sign saying Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian. With the break-up of Yugoslavia, each group now insists it has a distinct language. A map room offers more evidence of the struggles ahead.

Officially, the negotiations are called Proximity Peace Talks. The agenda seeks an agreement giving Bosnia a constitution, elections, a collective presidency, separation of forces, return of refugees and division of territory: 51 per cent for Muslims, 49 per cent for Serbs. Richard Holbrooke, Assistant US Secretary of State, describes Dayton as the "last best hope" for peace.

Dayton is considered so average middle America that it is frequently chosen to test new grocery lines. Today, peace in Bosnia gets a tryout.



Change of mind: part of a window display in Amsterdam. But the liberal Dutch attitude to drugs has caused concern and demands for alterations to the law

'Drug-friendly' nations switch to crackdowns to cut crime

By STEWART TENDLER AND OLIVER AUGUST

A NUMBER of countries which once had high hopes of a liberal soft drugs policy are having second thoughts and planning tougher measures, at a time when Clare Short, the Shadow Transport Secretary, has made outspoken remarks about the legalisation of cannabis in Britain.

In the United States, federal law has been increasingly tightened in recent years. Yesterday President Clinton signed a Bill setting out fresh penalties for possession and sale of crack cocaine. In Spain, there is also new debate about toughening the law as the country grapples with a burgeoning drug problem fuelled by South American cocaine

and Moroccan cannabis. But many countries, although signatories to international conventions banning drugs, have yet to define their position, faced with evidence of growing internal use of drugs.

If they are looking for a lead it may come from The Netherlands. The most radical reversals are being considered in The Hague, where the Dutch Government last month issued a discussion paper. The pressure for change has been generated by the anxiety of neighbouring countries about the rise of The Netherlands as a drug warehouse supplying the rest of Europe. Within The Netherlands, the appearance of foreign addicts and "drug

tourists" looking for supplies has caused concern.

The new policy document suggests that the 4,000 coffee shops allowed to sell small amounts of cannabis should be cut by up to half. The amount of cannabis sold to an individual will also be cut. Foreign drug addicts and drug tourists will face deportation, and new measures will be introduced to confront dealers and traffickers.

Spain decriminalised all drugs for personal use in 1982. Dealing remained illegal. Today 80 per cent of robberies are committed to pay for drugs. A reform of the penal code is expected to tighten the laws again.

Islamic Jihad's new chief studied in London

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN AMMAN

THE body of Fathi Shqaqi, the Islamic Jihad founder assassinated by an Israeli Mossad hit team in Malta, was flown to Damascus yesterday for burial. It was met at the airport by several Jihad leaders, including the organisation's new, British-educated chief, Ramadan Abdallah Shallah.

Mr Shallah, who according to his family in Gaza studied in London before going on to teach at an Islamic think-tank linked to a university in Florida, is now the main target for Mossad, which has orders from the Israeli Government to kill him.

There were conflicting accounts from family members about whether his doctorate in political science and economics had been acquired in London or in the United States.

Today's funeral at a squalid Palestinian refugee camp near Damascus will provide a sharp reminder of the long arm of Israeli revenge as the body of the 43-year-old militant will be buried next to that of Abu Jihad, the former military supremo of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, who was shot dead by Israeli commandos in his villa near Tunis in 1988.

Ahmed Jibril, the chief of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-general command, and Colonel Abu Musah, head of Fatah Uprising, two Syrian-sheltered groups dedicated to sabotaging the peace deal between Israel and the PLO, were also on hand to greet the coffin, which arrived on board a chartered Tunisian jet. As the aircraft landed, the dead leader's widow, Fathiya, and other Palestinian women shouted: "Death to Israel" and "Death to America".

The British links of the new Islamic Jihad secretary-general, who has already ordered suicide squads to exact swift revenge for Mr Shqaqi's death on Jewish targets throughout the world, were certain to intensify the controversy about the many Islamic extremists using London as a safe haven.



Baker: views altered by former department

Pro-China censors change memoirs

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

JAMES BAKER, the former US Secretary of State, is angry with his former department after it demanded changes to his memoirs. He says the State Department tried to censor his opinions and impose its conciliatory policies towards China.

The Baker camp has released examples of editorial changes sought by the censors when Mr Baker submitted his manuscript to the State Department. Some requests were finicky, others farcical. In one passage, Mr Baker admitted that he declined the use of a Chinese conference room on the assumption that it was bugged. "This is off limits," stated the censors, explaining it "tells the Chinese and the world that we don't trust the Chinese". Similarly, they objected to a claim that some Chinese officials were receiving backhanders from the arms trade. "These lines are insulting," a censor wrote in the margin.

Thomas DeFrank, the co-author of Mr Baker's *The Politics of Diplomacy*, said yesterday: "There was an attempt to make a former government official's opinions liable to censorship." Mr DeFrank, a veteran Washington political reporter, has also said the objections were "aimed less at guarding national security than at protecting the feelings of Beijing's hypersensitive gerontocrats".

It is customary for former senior members of US Administrations to submit manuscripts for a security review. In return, they have access to classified papers.

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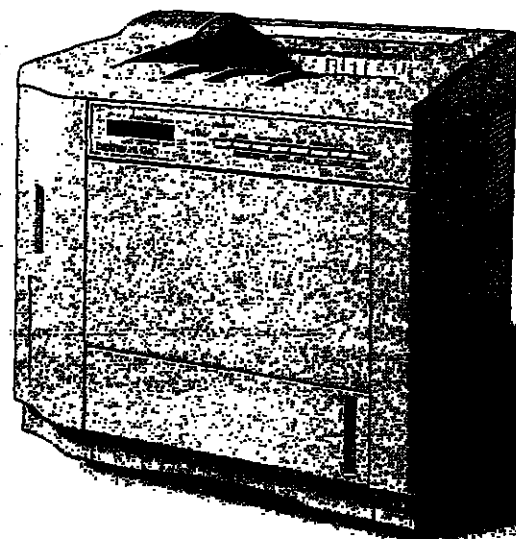
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Kohl tipped to make way for 'Crown Prince' in 1998

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

WOLFGANG SCHÄUBLE, Germany's controversial European strategist, is to replace Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, as Christian Democratic Party chairman and may take over as German leader, according to a report to be published in Stern magazine today.

Despite a government denial last night, the report — which quotes an anonymous leading member of the party — tallies with other information leaked from party headquarters and the Chancellery. Herr Kohl promised at the last election to step down in 1998, but given the immensely complicated European tasks in that year, has quietly retreated from the pledge.

The Stern source has revived speculation in a credible way. According to the report, Herr Schäuble will move into the party chairmanship in 1997, and he and Herr Kohl will contest the October 1998 general election on what will be, in effect, a double ticket.

The magazine assumes that Herr Kohl will step down after winning the election for the Christian Democrats and Herr Schäuble will take over. This last part of the equation is purely speculative. Other well-placed Christian Democrat sources suggest Herr Kohl will step down as leader about 18 months after an election victory, in the year 2000, and that Herr Schäuble may not be the automatic choice as successor. Herr Schäuble has used Stern magazine before to

Bonn backs Lubbers for Nato leadership

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

RUUD LUBBERS, a widely liked and respected former Dutch Prime Minister, was yesterday poised to succeed Willy Claes as Secretary-General of Nato after receiving an official endorsement from Germany, the only country which might have blocked his candidature.

Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, confirmed weekend reports that he supported Mr Lubbers for the post at the head of the Western alliance after John Major and President Chirac of France adopted

the same position on Monday. Nato officials confirmed that America would have no objections to Mr Lubbers and that the Dutchman was "virtually certain" to be formally offered the job in the next few days.

express his fitness for leadership. Since an assassination attempt five years ago, he has been confined to a wheelchair but has emerged nonetheless as the strong right-hand man of the Chancellor, keeping party discipline as parliamentary floor leader and setting out national and European priorities.

Informally, the 53-year-old lawyer is sometimes referred to as the Crown Prince, but the longer Herr Kohl serves, the more improbable the label has become. The Chancellor has crushed almost all his closest rivals over the years, including a good number of potential successors. Of their generation, only Herr Schäuble and

Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, have survived. The choice of Herr Schäuble is designed not only to ensure an orderly transition into the post-Kohl era: 1998 will be a bumpy year for the Chancellor, above all if right-wingers inside and outside the Christian Democratic Union break party discipline and campaign against the abolition of the mark.

Herr Schäuble is regarded as the leader of the enlightened Right and, at the same time, committed to Herr Kohl's vision of Europe. Last year he caused uproar with a strategy paper that predicted the emergence of a hard core of European states, suggesting

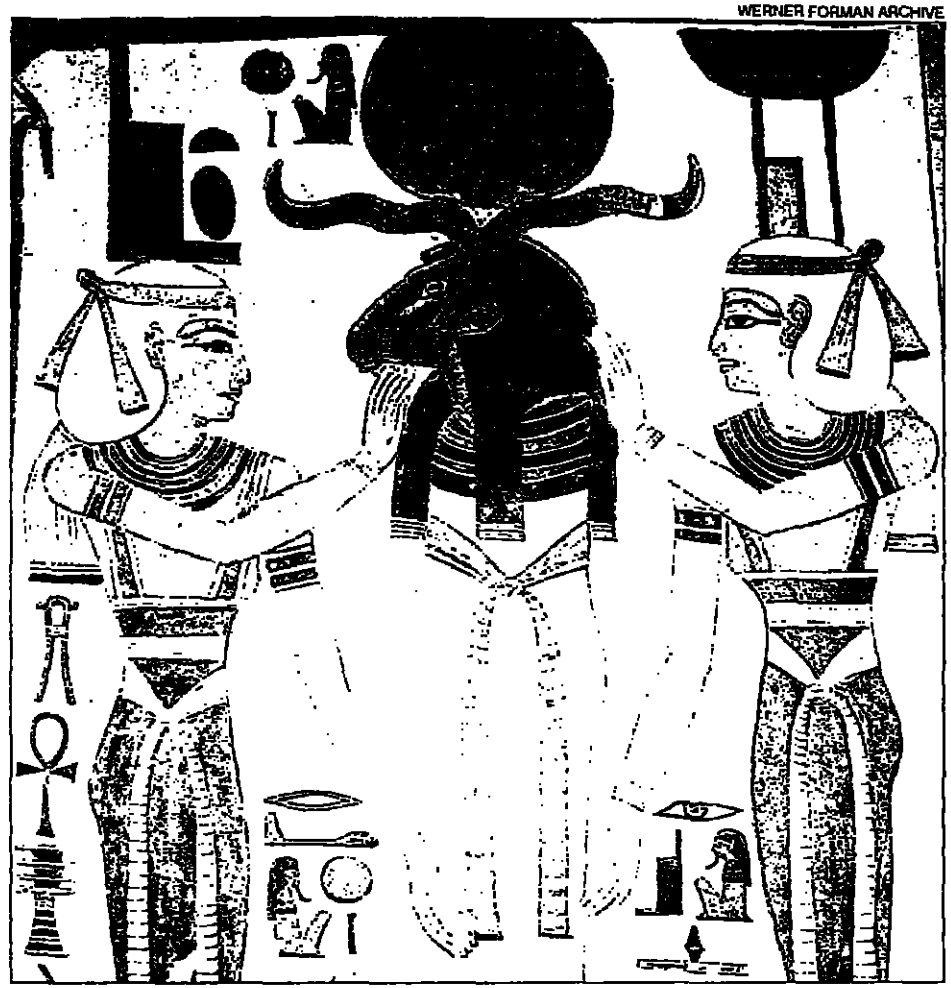
that those with softer currencies or weaker commitment to Europe would be dispatched to the political margins. That remains his view, although nowadays he expresses it more diplomatically.

Herr Schäuble's task in 1997-1998 will be to fend off attacks from the Right, and lead the election campaign against the opposition Social Democrats, who will be making monetary union one of their key issues.

This will leave the Chancellor free to concentrate on anchoring his reputation as a statesman. Victory, however, is by no means assured for Herr Kohl's Christian Democrats. To rule in the old style, Herr Kohl needs the small Free Democrat coalition partner to survive. Recent city-state elections in Berlin — when the Free Democrats polled only about 3 per cent of the vote — show that is far from certain.

Meanwhile, the Social Democrats are manoeuvring ahead of a party conference this month that will chart the early stages of the campaign to unseat the Chancellor. Rudolf Scharping, the party leader, has signalled that the Social Democrats will try to establish themselves as champions of the mark.

They sense that Herr Kohl has cut himself adrift from a large part of the population: two-thirds of the country is now opposed to abandoning the mark. That is a large reservoir of potential voters.



One of the numerous exquisite wall paintings in the tomb of Queen Nefertari

Egyptian queen's tomb opens

THE tomb of Queen Nefertari, one of the most lavishly decorated burial chambers built in ancient Egypt, opens to the public today, more than 90 years after its discovery (Michael Dynes writes).

For an entrance fee of £20, tourists will be able to explore the 520 square yards of exquisite murals in Tomb 66, painted in honour of the favourite consort of Rameses

II, who reigned over Egypt from 1304 BC to 1236 BC. Nefertari's remains, with any riches that may have been buried with her about 3,200 years ago, were stolen in the distant past. But the murals depicting what is said to have been Egypt's most beautiful woman are among the finest produced by Egyptian civilisation. All visitors will be required to wear masks and

Yeltsin tries to resolve poll row

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN yesterday intervened from his hospital sickbed to deal with a political crisis caused by a banning order on Russia's leading reformist party.

In the first sign that he is resuming his duties after more than a week's absence, Mr Yeltsin demanded that the Central Electoral Commission explain the banning order on several parties ahead of next month's parliamentary polls.

The move coincided with the first report by Andrei Vorobyov, the head of the medical team treating Mr Yeltsin, that last week's heart attack would not reduce his long-term ability to work. "There have been no changes in the heart muscle," Dr Vorobyov said.

Three parties have been barred from the elections — supposedly for irregularities in their registration documents — including the Yabloko faction, Russia's leading pro-democratic movement. Grigori Yavlinsky, the party's leader, has petitioned the Supreme Court to reverse the commission's decision before the official launch of the campaign tomorrow.

The Kremlin leader's intervention followed an announcement by his wife, Naina, that the country should ignore speculative reports in the media about his ability to rule. "I can say with relief that Boris Nikolayevich [Yeltsin] is doing better," she said.

EU sacks top British official over VAT plan

BY GEORGE BROCK

THE European Commission ran into fresh trouble with its staff yesterday as an Italian Commissioner sacked a top British official and the Commission decided to draw up rules to stop colleagues writing embarrassing books about their experiences.

The developments came a day after Bernard Connolly, a dissenting Commission official who has attacked monetary union in a book, began legal action against his employers for suspending him. Mario Monti, the Single Market Commissioner, announced he was firing Peter Wilmot, director-general of customs and indirect taxation, because the EU's complex VAT systems were not being implemented quickly enough. The Commissioner denied that his differences with Mr Wilmot were of a personal nature.

Mr Wilmot has said nothing publicly, but has let it be known that he feels he is being made a scapegoat. He, too, may take legal action.

The rules being drawn up on books and articles by commissioners are aimed at preventing a repetition of the fracas over a book by Ritt Bjerregaard, the Danish Commissioner for the Environment. The book has since been withdrawn. In future, members of the Commission will probably be required to submit their manuscripts to Jacques Santer, the President.

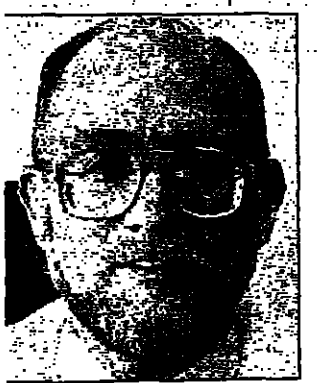
Adultery is France's true love

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

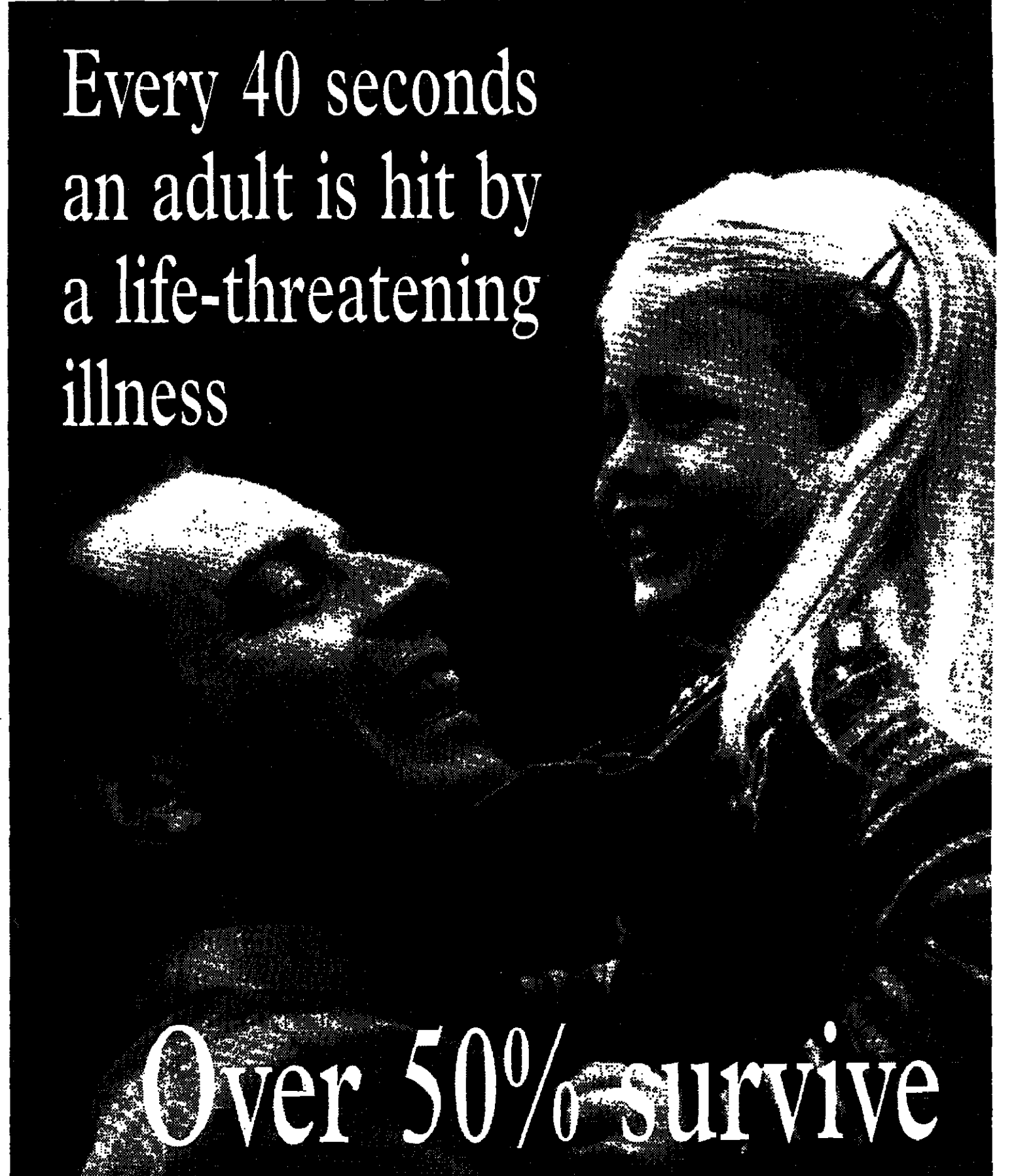
WHILE other Gallic customs may be under assault, the ancient French tradition of adultery is alive and thriving, according to a book published this week.

One in five French people "carry on a long-term romantic relationship with two people", the writer Cécile Abdeslam reports in *The Adventurers of the Double Life*. Two in every three adulterers are men, but where the extramarital affair was once the exclusive preserve of the male, married Frenchwomen are increasingly likely to be carrying on a dangerous liaison.

More than 40 per cent of French people believe it is possible to love two people at the same time, according to Mme Abdeslam. And 65 per cent would rather remain in blissful ignorance if a spouse is having an affair.



Wilmot: let it be known he is being made a scapegoat



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Province's federalists celebrate but independence issue endures to haunt Canada

Separatist leader quick to declare 'the fight goes on'

FROM TOM RHODES
IN MONTREAL

IT WAS a referendum that altered nothing and yet changed everything. The only certainty in the minds of Quebecers and their Canadian compatriots as they awoke yesterday was that the issue of an independent province would haunt the federation for many years to come.

Although federalists throughout Quebec celebrated long into the night, claiming an historic triumph over the dark powers of separation, the overwhelming feeling was one of defeat. In Ottawa, Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister, called for further unity and implied negotiations for change. But in Montreal Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Québécois, spoke of "a next time, a right time".

An overwhelming 92 per cent of the electorate voted,



Bouchard and his wife, Audrey, after the vote

making the result — a 1 per cent margin — all the more frightening to a Canadian Government that had argued it would get a substantial victory. The French-speaking majority, which accounts for 83 per cent of the province, had voted in favour of the question by a margin of at least 17 per

cent and brought the federation to its knees.

In 1980 René Lévesque, then leader of the Parti Québécois, called a similar referendum, to be defeated by a margin of 20 per cent. That, accompanied by the failure of subsequent talks on constitutional reform for Quebec, first at Meech Lake and then Charlottetown, had set the scene for yesterday's result.

Faced with remaining part of Canada or declaring total sovereignty, Quebecers managed to achieve the one outcome that will most affect policymakers in Ottawa.

Francophone Quebec had two alternatives, neither of which it found appealing, said Jeremy Webber, a professor of constitutional law at McGill University. "Strangely, many voted 'yes' to ensure their voices were heard in the rest of Canada, but they never voted for total independence."

The future is uncertain, said Mr Webber, but the separatists' narrow defeat would resonate throughout the country and place renewed pressure on Mr Chrétien.

The Prime Minister, a Quebecer himself, had seemed destined to lead Canada into the millennium until yesterday. Entering the "no" campaign late, he had told his Cabinet that Quebec would never leave Canada's bosom. In panic, he had finally accepted that might not be the case.

Mr Bouchard, who took the reins of a faltering "yes" campaign from Jacques Parizeau, Quebec's Premier, had played to the heart of the francophone community, invoking the death of a national language and culture.

Rick Anderson, a Reform Party member, said that, of the almost five million who voted, 30 per cent believed they would remain in Canada if the motion were passed. That alone has been cited as a failure of the Chrétien message, which many say should have concentrated on the economic realities of separation.

Leading article, page 19



The joy: Daniel Johnson, the leader of the Liberal Party, and his wife, Suzanne, celebrating in Montreal among a crowd of "no" supporters

Defeated pin blame on ethnic minorities

BY TOM RHODES

THE coup de grâce for the ethnic minorities of Quebec came soon after Jacques Parizeau shuffled up to the podium at a packed Palais de Congrès in Montreal.

"Yes, we were beaten," he bellowed to thousands of subdued and tearful separatists. "But basically by what? By money and the ethnic vote." Many roared in unison. Others sat on their hands.

Members of ethnic minorities, watching from the safety of their homes, were outraged that the man chosen to represent mainstream politics in the province should have made such a deliberate call to nationalism. "It was a speech replete with racism and demagoguery," said Rabbi Reuben Poupko, president of the Rabbinical Council of Montreal. "He does not understand that he is Premier of all Quebecers." The minorities of Que-

bec, which account for 7 per cent of the population, voted as one against separation from Canada, driven to the polls in no small part by fears of a sentiment that only Mr Parizeau dared to put into words in the moment of defeat. But Lucien Bouchard, leader of the Bloc Québécois, had touched on the subject only two weeks before.

Campaigning in north Quebec, Mr Bouchard appealed to a white, French-speaking culture and heritage under threat. The province, he said, had one of the lowest birth rates in the world and demographics would soon bury hopes of an independent state.

"It's a disgrace," Nick Pierni, regional president of the National Congress of Italo-Canadians, said yesterday. "We are 100 per cent Quebecers... and we deserve the same rights."



The sorrow: a separatist realising the fight is lost

Gloomy English-speakers see future over Quebec border

BY TOM RHODES

THE English-speaking community in Quebec was in deep shock yesterday after a vote which dashed hopes of a prosperous future in the province.

In west Montreal and the eastern townships — bastions of anglophone culture and the critical mass which carried the referendum in favour of the Canadian federation — there were few signs of festivity, rather an atmosphere of pessimism. Many businesses had already left the region for Toronto and the result confirmed the view among many English-speaking Quebecers that they should follow suit.

Peter Turner, a lawyer with practices in the township villages of Cowansville and Knowlton, said he had put his house up for sale after discuss-

ing the result with his wife over the breakfast table.

"I gave my partner notice that I want to leave within 12 months," he said. "We just cannot go on like this. The prospect of another referendum is too much. Fatigue has set in."

The sentiment was echoed by many English-speakers, who saw the result as a condemnation of their preferred status quo. Although Quebec law permits only one such vote within a single governmental term, and provincial elections are still up to four years away, many believe the assembly will change the legislation and soon call another referendum.

Businessmen appeared less flustered by the result. The Canadian dollar rallied

strongly as news of the result filtered through to the financial markets. "Any kind of 'no' was better than none," said Sherry Cooper, chief economist at Nesbitt Burns, the investment house. "Everything is rallying like crazy."

The rest of Canada, meanwhile, was coming to terms with the realisation that the unity debate was far from over. Preston Manning, the leader of the Reform Party, called for a new "Canadian nationalism" in response to the result. He, like the Premiers of almost all the other nine provinces, spoke of a popular demand for change.

The separatist leaders are expected to speak in favour of negotiation, but on Monday night they recognised a clear mandate for their cause.

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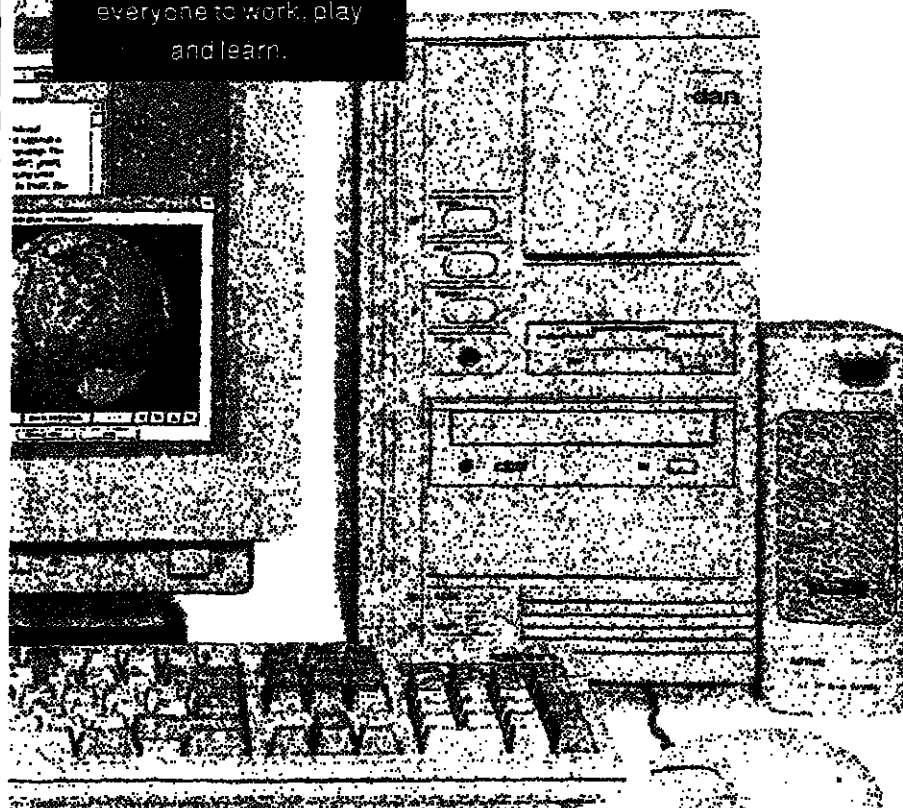
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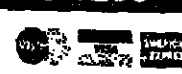
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Britain condemns Nigeria after writer is sentenced to die

By EVE-ANN PRENTICE AND SAM KILEY

BRITAIN yesterday condemned Nigeria's military regime for sentencing Ken Saro-Wiwa, the Nigerian writer and human rights campaigner, to death after what Whitehall dismissed as a "flawed" judicial process.

A military court in Port Harcourt condemned Mr Saro-Wiwa — who has a home in London — to hang after finding him guilty of plotting the murders of four moderate members of his own Ogoni people.

Three others were also sentenced to death yesterday for carrying out the murders in May last year. Five more members of Mr Saro-Wiwa's Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People were sentenced to death on Monday.

As the sentence against Mr Saro-Wiwa was announced, his son, Ken Wiwa, said in London that relatives in Port Harcourt had been refused permission to take food to the condemned man since last week. "My father is effectively being forced to go on hunger strike," he said. "I just want to express our disgust at the verdict, which highlights the human rights abuses which have been intensifying in Nigeria for the past two years."

Mr Saro-Wiwa, 54, was

found guilty of involvement in the deaths of the four men during a riot at a political rally he was to have addressed. "I was found guilty even before I was tried," declared a defiant but frail Mr Saro-Wiwa after the sentence was announced. He suffers from a congenital heart condition for which he has been denied treatment. "In the course of this trial I have been brutalised," he shouted before being led away.

Mr Saro-Wiwa has campaigned against the Nigerian regime and the oil industry in his native Rivers State, which is home to the Ogoni people. They say that little of the

region's oil riches reaches them and that their land and water have been polluted.

A spokesman for the British Government called for the sentences to be commuted and said: "We deplore the death sentences passed on Ken Saro-Wiwa and his co-defendants following a flawed judicial process." He also indicated that pressure would be brought to bear on the regime of General Sani Abacha during next week's Commonwealth summit in New Zealand to hasten Nigeria's return to democracy. General Abacha has pledged to return the country to civilian rule, but "the timetable is rather long", the spokesman said.

Chief Emeka Anyaoku, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth and himself a Nigerian, said: "I earnestly hope that these sentences will not be carried out and I appeal to the Nigerian authorities to spare his life." Nigerian and international human rights groups condemned the trial as a flagrant abuse of the law.

In the past week, the Ogoni region on the Niger delta has been swamped with soldiers. Deebi Mwaido, Mr Saro-Wiwa's personal assistant, said they were "beating, raping and killing Ogoni people".



Saro-Wiwa: "guilty before I was tried"



THE Duke of Edinburgh stoically rubbed 36 noses in traditional Maori greeting when he arrived in New Zealand yesterday, including that of Honohono Morrison, above, of the Te Arawa tribe (Alan Hamilton writes).

Visiting the island of Mokoia in Lake Rotorua, the Duke, who is president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, was greeted by elders from the tribe, all of whom wished to perform a *hongi* — the ceremonial sharing of air with a visitor — with the royal nose. After three dozen

Duke in brush with Maori tradition

hongi, the Duke turned his attention to the true purpose of his first official engagement in the country, an inspection of a stichbird breeding programme. The Duke was joined by the Queen after her 27-hour flight in the specially converted first-class cabin of a scheduled Air New Zealand Boeing 747 flight

from London, the first time that the monarch has arrived for an official visit on a normal commercial service. The New Zealand Government, which is responsible for transport, is reported to have saved £400,000 by not chartering an aircraft for the journey. During her visit, which precedes the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Auckland, the Queen will sign into law New Zealand's largest-ever land compensation deal with its indigenous Maori population.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Argentine guerrilla extradited

Argentina's most notorious left-wing guerrilla leader of the Seventies and early Eighties, Enrique Gorriarán Merlo, was extradited yesterday to Buenos Aires (Gabriella Gamini writes). He was captured in Mexico City at the weekend and faces a life sentence for his role in numerous violent attacks.

Gorriarán, 54, better known as "The Angel" or "Baldy", had been on the run for 25 years. He followed in Che Guevara's footsteps and left Argentina in his twenties to join guerrilla groups in Mexico, Cuba and Nicaragua. One charge is that he took part in the Paraguay assassination of the exiled Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1980.

Nuclear sect

New York: The Japanese sect accused of a fatal gas attack on the Tokyo subway tried to buy nuclear and chemical weapons materials in America, Russia and Australia, Senator Sam Nunn told *The New York Times*. (Reuters)

Roh summoned

Seoul: Roh Tae Woo, the former South Korean President, appears today before state prosecutors over a secret \$425 million slush fund. His successor, President Kim Young Sam, has twice denied involvement. (Reuters)

Metro denial

Baku: The Azerbaijan Government rejected reports that a bomb was responsible for the metro train disaster here that killed about 300 people, saying that the dead did not have injuries consistent with an explosion. (AFP)

Bomb kills 22

Ankara: The democratic Iraqi National Congress, which opposes President Saddam Hussein, said at least 22 people died when a bomb exploded in its security office at Salahuddin in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq. (Reuters)

South African taste for polls cools

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN JOHANNESBURG

EIGHTEEN months after the world witnessed the queues outside polling booths in South Africa's first non-racial election, voters for today's local government polls are complaining about a surfeit of politics without having enjoyed the promised changes.

Where are the houses, jobs and better life they were told in April last year their vote would ensure? What, they say, is the point of voting again if it made no difference last time?

Last week the African National Congress convened a special press conference to try to dispel the impression that voter apathy is widespread. But Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general, only added to the scepticism when he said he would be gratified by a 50 per cent turnout, a far cry from the 86 per cent last year.

The local elections have been transformed into a mini general election, focusing on national issues. In Gauteng

alone, the most populous province, fewer than 2,000 houses of the promised 150,000 have been built.

The few issues to have elicited real passion are crime and violence. Crime levels have risen by 3 per cent since last year.

Inter-party bickering and lack of information have made the polls even less appetising. The electorate can hardly have been encouraged by the knowledge that neither President

Mandela nor Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, of the Inkatha Freedom Party, will be voting because they are registered in Cape Town and Kwa-Zulu/Natal, where elections have been suspended.

In East London, in the Eastern Cape, 47 candidates from the three main parties were investigated for fraud, and in Uitenhage the National Party is expected to win because every ANC candidate has been disqualified.

Argentina to hail Princess

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

MOST Argentines will cast aside any resentment they still harbour about the Falklands conflict when it comes to welcoming the Princess of Wales. She will be received by elated crowds when she visits Buenos Aires at the end of this month.

"I am so happy she is coming, I have followed the story of the dream Princess who has fallen on bad times every step of the way. It is more exciting and dramatic

than the best of soap operas," said one woman interviewed on a local television station, reflecting a consensus.

Newspaper headlines in Buenos Aires yesterday welcomed the news, calling the visit a sign that relations between Britain and Argentina, renewed in 1990, had been "irreversibly" improved. "We have reached fishing and oil agreements with Britain, this royal visit will now help our public to feel closer to your

country," Guido Di Tella, the Foreign Minister, said.

There was confusion in diplomatic circles about the status of the visit — from November 23 to 26. First announced as "official", it was then downgraded by Buckingham Palace to a "working trip".

Family visit: The Falklands yesterday allowed 12 relatives of five Argentine Air Force crew to visit the place where their aircraft crashed in the 1982 conflict with Britain.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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is estimated that this figure will rise to 15% by the end of the century — that's some ten million people.

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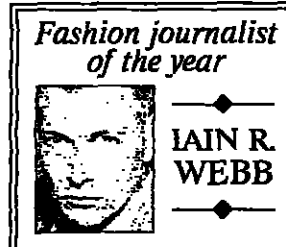
Selfridges has shaken off its 'grand old lady' image with a multimillion-pound revamp and now has clothes appeal for serious shoppers

Until recently department stores were not considered to be exactly fashionable. Snobbish style pundits looked down their noses at the multi-storey emporiums, preferring the intimacy (and elitism) of the specialist boutique.

However, over the past few years the big retail players in London — Liberty, Dickens & Jones, Harrods, Harvey Nichols and even Fenwick's — have followed the lead (and success) of American retailers and revamped their images.

Perhaps the most striking make-over has been the redevelopment of Selfridges on Oxford Street. For a long time it languished on the fringes of fashion, its landmark position, close to Marble Arch, pulled in passing trade, turning the store into a tourist trap, but failed to capture the imagination (or the bank account) of the discerning shopper.

The problem was in proportion with the store: gigantic. In



the early 1990s Tim Daniels, the managing director of Selfridges, mercilessly lobbied Sears, its parent company, for money to be spent on the London store, and in 1993 Sears invested £60 million in a masterplan which would make sweeping changes from top to bottom. Even the children's department has been given a new look. Renamed Kids Universe, it buzzes with excitement and more than a few envious grown-ups.

During London Fashion Week, Selfridges put on a show of its own, unveiling Spirit, its rejuvenated teen fashion department on the ground floor. The pop singer Dannii Minogue was among the models showing off the latest lines from Warehouse, French Connection, Toi du Monde, Red or Dead and, of course, the Miss Selfridge line.

This week sees another part of the jigsaw fall into place, with the opening of a Casual Collections department on the second floor offering contemporary weekend wear such as the A line Anne Klein outfit pictured above. The look is essentially comfortable and sporty, with lots of mix 'n' match separates — featuring this season's favourite fabrics, nylon, denim, satin and cotton — from designers including Jean Paul Gaultier, Adrienne



Vinadini, Katharine Hamnett, Ralph Lauren, Calvin Klein and Antoni & Alison.

There are new labels to be found all over the store, including Edina Ronay, Pearce Fionda, Gianni Versace, Amanda Wakeley, Benny Ong, Gucci, Issey Miyake, John Rocha, Romeo Gigli, and Thierry Mugler (pictured far right). "All names that, frankly, would not have dreamt of coming in here before," Mr Daniels says.

Nothing could be farther from the truth today. Taking its cue from Barneys, the

successful department store in New York, Selfridges gives an overwhelming sense of space.

The sheer choice of merchandise on offer under one roof is its greatest strength, especially in the men's department where funky and refined clothes are shown side by side. Just walking through the ladies' shoe department would make Imelda Marcos dizzy.

If that were not enough, Selfridges has one more ace up its sleeve — the largest cosmetics and perfumery hall in the world. Now that really is something not to be sniffed at.

ABOVE: Black satin quilted jacket, £146; matching yellow satin waistcoat, £94, nylon hipster skirt, £89. A line by Anne Klein.

RIGHT: Woman's fine dogtooth check suit, £529, Thierry Mugler. Silver grosgrain high heels, £79. Via Spiga. Man's fine knitted suit, £399; blue/rust stripe shirt, £79; blue woven tie, £39.95, Victor Victoria. Black leather lace-up brogues, £129, Sweeneys.



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ABOVE: Chocolate brown take pony jacket, £194.99; matching skirt, £49.95, rib knit sweater, £49.95, Toi du Monde, Spirit at Selfridges. Leather loafers, £105, Patrick Cox Wannabes.

RIGHT: Beige/brown line check blazer, £399; chocolate brown/pale brown check wool shirt, £125; brown rib knit waistcoat, £125; chocolate brown jeans, £59.95, C.K. Calvin Klein.

All clothes available from Selfridges, 400 Oxford St, W1

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صحنه من الاعمال

The general's first lady

Martin Fletcher
on the housewife
who has the
key to
the American
Presidency

Newsweek magazine disclosed on Sunday that Colin Powell's wife, Alma, has for ten years taken medication to control depression. It was hardly a sensational revelation, and was buried in a bigger story, but those two short paragraphs could conceivably determine who is America's next President.

As the impossibly popular general nears a decision on whether to seek the Oval Office, the strong-willed woman who has been his loyal partner for the past 33 years is unquestionably the biggest obstacle. "Tell him no," Mrs Powell implored Richard Armitage, one of her husband's closest friends and advisers, earlier this year. "Alma is adamant. She's totally against it," said Bruce Llewellyn, the general's cousin and confidant, last week.

Mrs Powell is, by her own admission, a "very private person". She dreads the prospect of the media exposing the most intimate details of her family's personal life. The *Newsweek* story would have confirmed her worst fears while there was still time to dissuade her husband.

There are other reasons Mrs Powell so strongly opposes him running. She fears for his safety — "it just takes one nut," she says. She fears for his reputation — "you might start out as a saint, but I don't think you'd end up as one." At 57 she likes having her husband to herself at last, and adores the new \$13 million Virginia home, complete with swimming pool, they bought after his retirement from the Pentagon in 1993.

Nor does Mrs Powell want her children's lives turned upside down. Michael is a 32-year-old Washington lawyer with two young sons, Linda a 30-year-old New York actress, and Annemarie a 25-year-old production assistant with ABC television news. Uncorroborated rumours about Linda have circulated in New York's gay community. Mrs Powell jokes to friends that if her husband is at a loose end, "there are plenty of things to fix around the house".

Former President Bush is pushing the general to run, and Barbara Bush did her best to allay Mrs Powell's fears when the Powells visited Kennebunkport this summer, but General Powell will not lightly dismiss his wife's opposition. They have always



Alma and Colin Powell: she fears for her husband's safety as President — "it just takes one nut" — and for his reputation

worked as a team, and he insists that whatever he decides "Alma will be 50 per cent of that decision". After a brief pause he adds: "In Alma's case it's probably 51 per cent."

The two met on a blind double-date in Boston in 1961. General Powell, then a 24-year-old first lieutenant, was instantly "entranced" by this soft-spoken Southerner with her light brown hair, lovely figure and luminous green eyes.

Alma's first job had been

hosting a radio show — *Luncheon With Alma* — in her native Birmingham, Alabama. She was now working as an audiologist. Powell called her the next day, they began dating and suddenly, he recalls in his autobiography, "I was in love, but I thought it would clear up".

It did not clear up. The next year he was promoted and posted to Vietnam. To his surprise Alma did not share his excitement and declared she would not wait for him. After a night of hard thinking Powell returned to her apartment and proposed.

He did not buy an engagement ring, suggesting the money would be better spent on household items. Nor was Alma's father — the proud principal of an all-black high school in Birmingham, Alabama — thrilled at his daughter marrying a West Indian soldier from the Bronx. But they married within two weeks, spent their wedding night in Birmingham's only decent black hotel, and returned to work in Boston.

A few days later a man rang the apartment and introduced himself as Alma's fiancé. "How do you do," said Powell. "I'm her husband." There evidently had not been time "to put my earlier rivals on notice that Alma was now spoken for".

Four months after the wedding Powell departed for Vietnam and Alma returned — pregnant — to her parents' home. Three months after that, with her husband deep in Indo-China, she gave birth to their first child, Michael, who was either conceived before their wedding or born two months prematurely.

Over the next three decades Mrs Powell brought up three children while her husband served in Vietnam, Korea, Germany and gruelling Pentagon and White House posts. She had to move house constantly, escort the wives of visiting dignitaries, and take midnight telephone calls alerting her husband to international crises. Baptised a Congregationalist, she became an Episcopalian like her husband "because we wanted to grow together spiritually as a family". She did all this with poise and good humour, and her first comment when her husband was appointed

Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1989 was: "Here we go again."

She was always supportive, but never passive or subservient. She was the rock on which her husband depended when Michael was grievously injured in a car crash. He recalls how she would tell him to get a haircut, warned him against certain journalists and telephoned him after his first televised Gulf War briefing to say he had passed muster — "an unwashed wife is good for keeping your hat size constant".

Alma, General Powell wrote in his autobiography, "made a home, raised the kids, kept me happy and impressed everybody at every post at which we ever served".

On the first day of General Powell's retirement, after a magnificent farewell ceremony attended by Presidents Bush and Clinton, he was greeted at breakfast by Alma telling him to unblock the kitchen sink, and he now jokingly describes his occupation as "full-time spouse". But he also wrote that "in the lottery of love and marriage I knew that I had been the big winner".

Those who know her say that Alma would not ultimately stand in her husband's way if he was really determined to run. She is at heart a "wonderful army wife, a good trooper" who would fully support him whatever he finally chose to do.

She has herself said she would "adjust", and would never dream of emulating Marianne Gingrich who threatened, if her husband ran against her wishes, to "go on the air the next day and undermine everything".

In fact — though the Republican Right would not like her firm support for abortion rights — Alma would almost certainly prove a considerable electoral asset to her husband with her natural warmth and long record of charitable work for the underprivileged.

Giles Coren on Patric Walker's successor

What the stars hold in store for Shelley



Starstruck Shelley

The horoscopes of Patric Walker, it is reckoned, were read by a billion people. But, according to his heir as Britain's most influential astrologer, the modern world is only now beginning to come round to astrology.

When Walker died three weeks ago, even the most amateur enthusiast could have predicted that Shelley Von Strunckel would take his place at the *Evening Standard*. She had been his protégée in the early 1990s, even writing his *Standard* column for a year, and with her slot in the *Sunday Times* had become the first astrologer to appear regularly in a national broadsheet — a step which she called at the time "the culmination of Patric's efforts and mine to bring our field the dignity it deserves by going up-market".

It has clearly allowed a certain dignity of lifestyle. A Hollywood-born American, she spends up to two months a year in New York. When in London, she lives in a breathtaking apartment opposite Westminster Cathedral — ironic, when you consider that in 1992 the Pope described the reading of horoscopes as a sin.

Downstairs is Roy Hattersley, next door is Michael Portillo — two men who will have had very different responses to her prediction, in December 1991, that the Tories — then disastrously low in the polls — would win the 1992 election and bring an end to Neil Kinnock's parliamentary career. Neither of them, though, can have apartments so palatial, so extravagantly decorated and furnished with antiques as Ms Von Strunckel.

"I am beginning to take over Patric's billion readers, through worldwide syndication," she says. "But the money is by no means a fortune. Certainly not enough to bring up a family and educate children." Fortunately, her husband, a British barrister, is in a position to share some of that expense.

"When we married, five years ago, he was not interested in astrology, but he has developed considerable respect for it." And he is not alone, it seems.

"When I first started in the business 20 years ago this month, people at parties were taken aback when I

said what I did for a living; some even laughed. But they didn't engage me in conversation about it. In the last five years, though, all that has changed. I now try to keep my job quiet, otherwise the rest of the evening is spent on the subject. Everyone wants to talk about it."

Apart from the newspaper columns, Ms Von Strunckel works as a consultant astrologist charging £80 an hour. She is not of the old predicting school, though. "Saying things like 'a red ribbon tied around a lamp-post will change your life' is not astrology," she is thoroughly modern, adopting an approach that allows free will its part in destiny.

"I make people aware of the developing situation, and of how their own chart stands, and allow them to make their own decisions from that. The greatest gift you can give someone is to say 'it's over to you'."

This approach, pioneered by Walker, has helped to make astrology the growth industry that it is today. And many of Ms Von Strunckel's clients are businessmen.

"I have some very high-level business clients," she says. "But you don't hear about it because they don't want the flak that comes with it, or their competitors to know where they are getting their information."

She does not give specific details about markets, though: rather, she helps people to time a takeover, or the dissolution of a business partnership.

Of newspaper astrology columns she is not dismissive. "They offer collective truths which are valid on their own level. It is not the same as a personal chart, but you can get a general picture."

And Mystic Meg? "She is very entertaining. And she does sometimes mention astrological phenomena. It is one part astrology to five parts hoo-ha, but it's fun."

Ms Von Strunckel does not trivialise. In fact, she dignifies at every point: "The study of the stars arose through empirical observation of physical and political events which, when men began to settle, could be seen to recur with certain configurations of the Sun, Moon and planets. It is only reasonable to tap into that empirical observation."

"In the Middle Ages every doctor, philosopher and physicist was also expected to be an astrologer. It was only with the age of science, in the 17th century, that astrology went into decline. For many people, materialism has nothing left to say, and there is a new interest in metaphysics. Astrology, like meditation and other things, is a part of that. I believe that all the daily broadsheets will soon have horoscopes on the business pages."

With her past success in predicting political upheaval, and with a triumph as recent as foretelling last week's earthquake in China which coincided with the eclipse of the Sun, can she offer us something on the next general election?

"Yes, I believe it will be won by a third party — not the Lib Dems — which will have emerged with a leader as yet unknown. It will be comprised mainly of defectors from the two main parties and occupy a centre-left position similar to the Democrats in the US." You read it here first.

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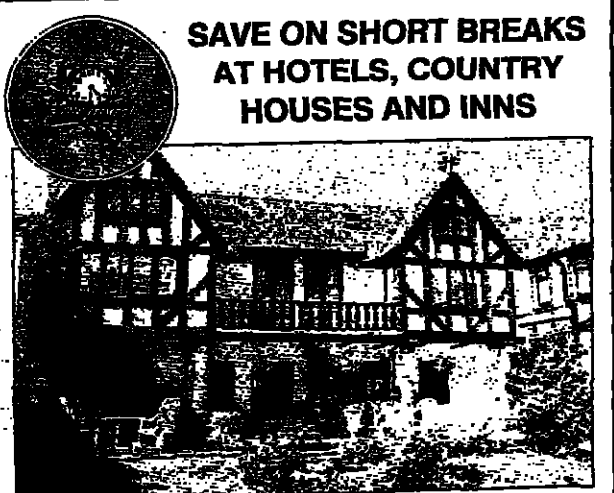
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What Ohio can do for Bosnia

Timothy Garton Ash calls for a long commitment to peacekeeping

As we sat in what is left of his battered and encircled town, the last Bosnian Government enclave on the River Drina, the Mayor of Gorazde asked: "Do you know what is the map?" The map, that is, that he thinks the American negotiator Richard Holbrooke will unfold when the Bosnian peace talks open today at the Wright-Patterson air-force base in Dayton, Ohio. A map which he fears might spell the end of his town, after more than three years of holding out against a siege worse than Sarajevo's.

The distance between reality on the ground in Bosnia and the conception on paper for the peace talks is greater even than that between Gorazde and Dayton, Ohio. The ostensible theory is that the Bosnian-Croat federation, holding the magic figure of 51 per cent of the territory of the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, will be joined by certain key central institutions to the Serb-controlled part of the former republic. A 60,000-strong Nato-plus implementation force will turn the current fragile ceasefire into peace, while Western economic aid, channelled through confederal and Bosnian-Croat federation institutions, will start the remaking of a Balkan Switzerland. Bosniaks (misleadingly known as Bosnian Muslims), Croats and Serbs will gradually come to live and work together again, in a highly decentralised but still common state, like the French, Germans and Italians in Switzerland.

Now if you travel through the mountainous landscape of central Bosnia, with its rocky ravines, pine forests, pastures and farmsteads, you can for a moment almost imagine that you are in Switzerland. But this beautiful European land has not only been devastated by war, it has been torn apart by conquest into not just two but three main parts: Bosnian Government, Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb. Only the Bosnian Government part pays any more than lip-service to a multi-ethnic state. But even it is becoming ever more overwhelmingly Bosniak.

Bosnian Government forces now control little more than 30 per cent of the land. The other 21 per cent out of the ethnic 51 per cent is held by the Croat para-state of Herceg-Bosna. In the middle of a wood near Sarajevo, two dirty caravans and two dishevelled frontier guards act as the frontier control for the Bosnian Croat enclave of Kiseljak. It's like a *Passport to Pimlico* with guns. In Mostar, the whole might of the European Union cannot bring the Croat administration to let people from the Bosnian eastern part of the city pass freely to the western part. So there is division within division, enmity within enmity.

The brutality and suffering has been such that even if there is no further slaughter, it is hard to imagine Bosniak, Croat and Serb Bosnians now living together in the same political community, as they

did, in the countryside and in the civilised café society of Sarajevo, before this war.

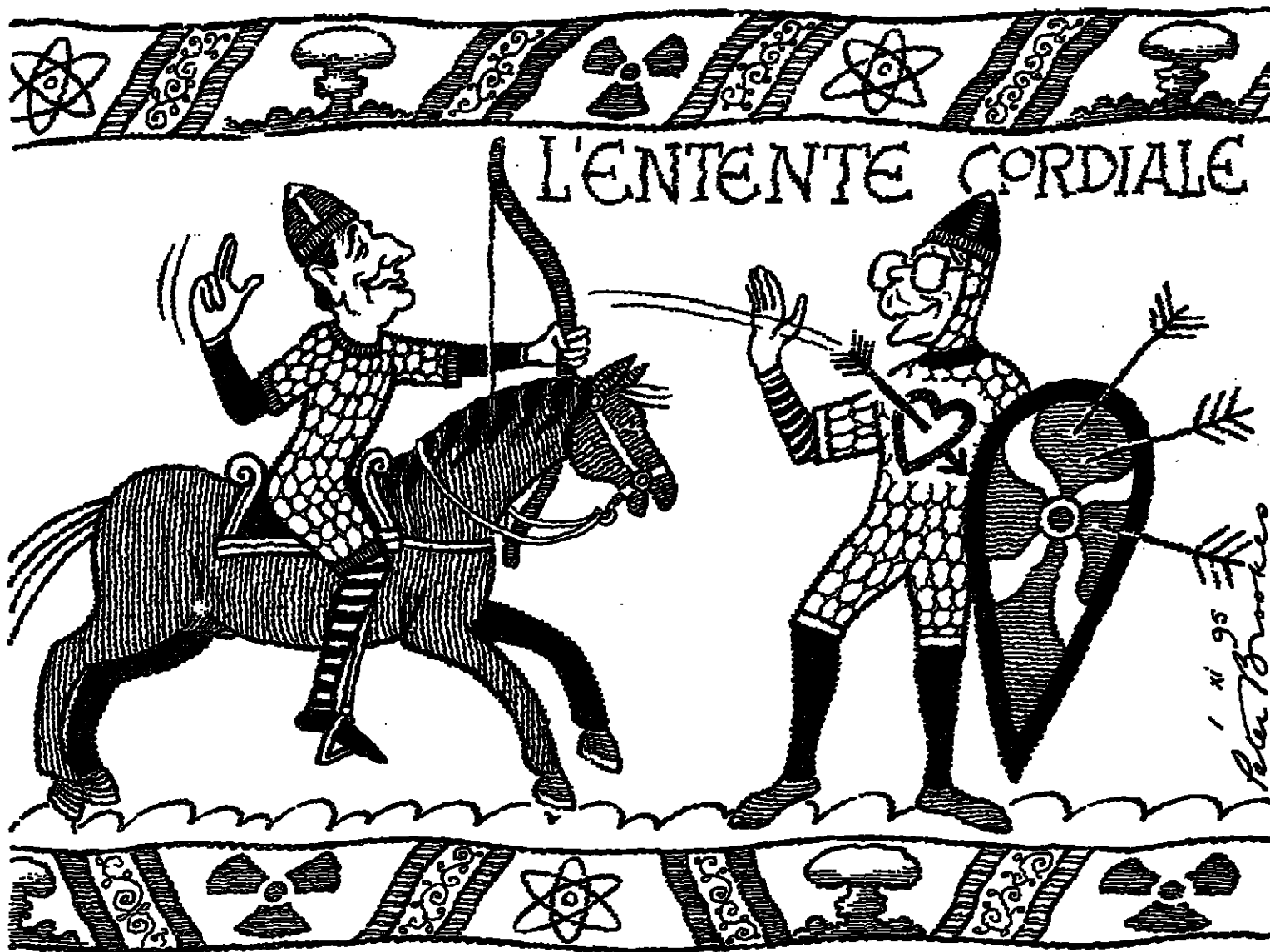
What follows from this is emphatically not that we should accept and legitimise a partition which we have shamefully failed to prevent. On the contrary, we must still insist that the whole of Bosnia remain an internationally recognised unit. This matters for the future of international relations, since otherwise war and "ethnic cleansing" will be seen to pay. It matters for the future of Bosnia, since otherwise the Bosnian Serbs and Bosnian Croats will see no reason to work with the Bosnian authorities, and a rump Bosniak Bosnia will be left between a Greater Serbia and the real victor of this war, Franjo Tudjman's Croatia. (Last Sunday, Croats in the Croat-controlled parts of Bosnia were actually voting in Croatian elections.)

Secondly, though, we must try to ensure that the part of Bosnia under Bosnian Government control is itself a viable unit. With its capital still encircled by Serb-held territory, Gorazde an isolated enclave, Mostar a divided city, an economy in ruins, an army still outarmed by both the Croat and Serbian sides, no neighbouring protector and no access to the sea, that is a very tall order. Only the Bosnian Government can decide whether trading territory — accompanied by the peaceful transfer of populations — is to make an integral and less vulnerable territory is a lesser evil. (It should not like to be the official who had to break the news to the people of Gorazde.) But we can put in money and know-how, and we can help them to build a better-equipped and more regular and professional army.

Thirdly, we have to recognise that even if the Dayton talks produce a "peace" leading to the deployment of the implementation force, a commitment of a year or 18 months will not be enough. That may be the most that the American Congress will commit troops for, but if local politicians and soldiers think the external forces will be out in a year, they will use the time to prepare for another round.

At the moment, everyone in Bosnia looks to America. They don't believe in any vehicle labelled "UN" or "international community", let alone "Europe". But neither they nor we can realistically expect America to be so committed for long. Why should it be?

A year hence, if we are very lucky, a lower level of military force may be required to keep in place the international framework within which the different parts of Bosnia and the different kinds of Bosnian can live, if not together, then at least side-by-side. But without a continued international presence there will be scant chance of domestic coexistence and reconstruction. Without it, this will be merely an interval before the tragedy's last act.



Divorced from reality

If John Major drops Lord Mackay's sensible Bill, it will be for fear of a Right wing already looking to his successor

Sometimes a Prime Minister must gaze around his Cabinet table and ask himself the question, Do I lead or do I follow? John Major is by style and inclination a follower, if only because he seldom knows where to lead. But he is not a coward. He does not run cowering at the first whimper from the Whips office or at the sound of a tabloid poggon.

Which is why Lord Mackay's Divorce Reform Bill must be in the Queen's Speech on November 15. It is a rare measure from this bleak Parliament, one that promotes human happiness. The reform has been exhaustively debated and supported. Its thrust is unambiguous. Most divorces would become slower. All divorce would be fairer and tidier, but not easier. Divorce would be less litigious, less costly and less acrimonious. Both the Anglican and the Catholic bishops have said they wish to see the reform enacted, as do the Opposition parties and even most divorce lawyers.

Lord Mackay was last year given the backing of his Cabinet colleagues in proceeding with his Bill. In Cabinet, only John Gummer is opposed to the reform; for some reason he prefers the present "quickie" procedure. The majority of Members of Parliament are said to be in favour as, I am sure, is a majority of the public. Yet suddenly a yellow streak has appeared, running from right-wing MPs through the Whips' office to spread as a stain down the Cabinet's back. Someone is running scared of something.

Let me repeat the substance of the proposed changes. They introduce a minimum delay of one year from the start of proceedings. At present three-quarters of divorces are settled in three to six months, many of them prior to a full settlement. Only a quarter of divorces follow the two years' separation procedure. Most of these do so only to avoid the pain of proving "fault" in open court. Under Lord Mackay's changes, the total time taken for an average divorce in Britain would probably double. (The short-term impact would thus be a fall in the rate.)

The reason for a year's delay is that Lord Mackay no longer wants couples to go their separate ways before a binding arrangement on children, property and maintenance has been approved by a court.

Divorce will no longer be possible in advance of a settlement. To portray this as making divorce quicker or easier is simply a lie. If Tory MPs worry that they are "sending the wrong signal about the family", it is they who are the signalers, and they are signalling a lie.

More than 95 per cent of divorces are uncontested. Lord Mackay also wishes to remove the need to prove to a court in such cases that there has been cruelty, adultery or unreasonable behaviour by one or other party. This requirement of proof, he has pointed out, merely injects into a

children, they should support Lord Mackay.

The motives of these critics are, I suspect, sinister. They secretly or openly wish to retain the concept of "good behaviour", and thus of blame, as part of the legal framework of marriage. They believe in the right of the state not just to order the logistics of a failed marriage, but also to pass judgment on its moral architecture. They truly believe — or yearn to believe — that one partner must be to blame for the breakdown of a marriage. He or she should therefore be pilloried in open court.

To these critics, the ritualised misery, the affidavits, allegations, cross-petitions and published cruelties of existing divorce litigation are a punitive deterrent. They are the marital equivalent of corporal punishment, a sharp shock. According to this argument, a divorce law is actually a good one if it exacerbates family conflict, traumatises children, impoverishes couples and enriches lawyers. For such a law is a deterrent to its use. It is a prison wall erected by the State around the institution of marriage. Its force lies not in its sensitivity to the wishes of individuals, but in its archaic stupidity. It subjects divorces to medieval trial by ordeal. To my mind, such legislators are immoral.

Lord Mackay's Bill happens to be a model reform of domestic policy. The proposals were researched and published in consultative form. Views were sought over two years. Government departments and Cabinets were briefed, as was any MP who bothers to listen or read beyond this morning's tabloid newspaper. Lord Mackay has spoken to dozens of gatherings. He has finally produced his Bill. Yet suddenly the Prime Minister

Simon Jenkins

Prince Charming

AN AUDIO-TAPE on which the Prince of Wales recites some of his favourite lines in Shakespeare shows His Royal Highness to have given a respectable performance as Prince Hal to Sir Robert Stephens's Falstaff. But behind the scenes, he had to be bullied — he was too decent for the part in rehearsals.

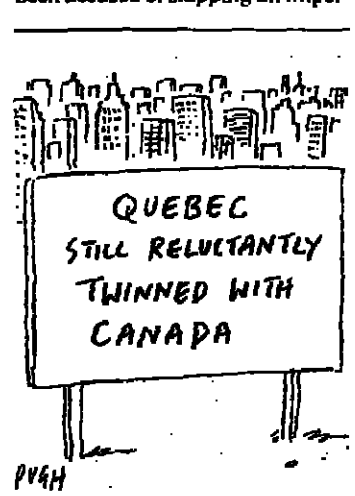
In *The Prince's Choice*, released today, he stars as the young Prince Hal in the tavern scene from *Henry IV*, in which he realises he can no longer remain a friend of Sir John Falstaff. Despite lessons with a voice coach, he struggled to be nasty enough. "The first thing I had to do was get through the innate niceness of Prince Charles," says the director Glyn Dearman. "He just sounded terribly nice. In the end I said 'How do you act when you get really angry?'"

Dearman adds that the Prince eventually "let rip" with such insults to Falstaff as "this bodiless, this horse-back-breaker, this huge hill of flesh". But Sir Robert Stephens's wife, Patricia Quinn, suggests the Prince found difficulty in summoning his anger. She explained that he sympathised with the bearded old rogue: "He kept on saying 'I can be angry with Falstaff. I like him too much.'"

Richard Branson looked awful as he struggled through five courses at the launch of the new spa at Raymond Blanc's restaurant Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons on Monday. He was just back from a trip along the Zambezi river in Africa. "I came back with a gippy tummy, which made lunch a bit of a struggle."

Acting up

MONACO'S Prince Rainier has been accused of slapping an imper-



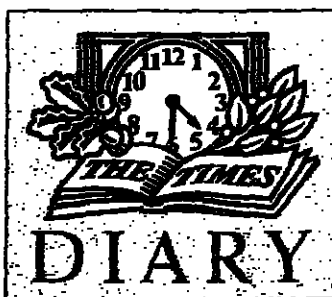
tent American waiter after the man made disabbling remarks about Montegazque democracy. The 73-year-old Prince called the waiter over and struck him smartly on the head with an open palm.

Members of Monaco's royal family were in New York to raise funds for the Princess Grace Foundation, a charitable organisation in memory of the Prince's late wife. The venue was Pomp, Duck and Circumstance, a Manhattan restaurant with a circus theme. One of the waiters, Tim Ward, is employed to tour the tables and entertain diners with a fast line in repartee.

Mr Ward, seeing Prince Rainier amid the black-tie crowd, advanced on him with the words: "You're Prince Albert now, but if there were elections would you be Plumber Albert?" Warning to his theme, Mr Ward turned to other diners and said: "Hey! Look at the little piggy prince, eating with his fingers!" A report in New York's *Daily News* yesterday stated that Prince Rainier then found himself the target of a food fight. In the fray the Prince, his humour improving, cast a strawberry at Mr Ward. He then gestured to Mr Ward to advance, whereupon he struck.

Perm secretary

TOP BRASS at the Ministry of Defence may splutter over the lack of



military experience of their Secretary of State, Michael Portillo. While at Harrow County Grammar School, the embryonic politician snubbed the institution's combined cadet corps, one of the largest in the country, because it would have meant having his hair cut.

Maurice Venn, who used to run the army section, says: "He was a member of a juvenile subculture. We had to spend an inordinate amount of time getting them to have their hair cut. He was under the prevailing flower-power left-wing views of young people at that time."

One's cabin

THE QUEEN was spared no luxury on her trip to New Zealand as the first British monarch to travel on a scheduled flight. As well as enjoying a specially installed divan bed and dining table and chairs,

the sole occupant of the first-class cabin on flight NZ1 was able to sample the delights of airline food and goodie bags.

She picked at steamed lobster medallions, New Zealand lamb and potato cream and herb pie then settled into the in-flight movie *Rebel Without a Cause*. She's said to be a fan of James Dean.

Unamused

ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER kept a low profile at the first night of *Prisoner Cell Block H* last Monday at the Queen's Theatre. Along with half the cast of *EastEnders* and Felicity Kendall, he sat back to watch the transvestite Lily Savage sing her way through the musical version of Australia's cult television programme.

But Lloyd Webber was less than impressed. The show hardly brought a smile to his coconut head, and he appeared reluctant to clap. "One must keep abreast of these modern artists," he said stoically. "It is essential to know what is going on in the modern theatre."

Top shot

THE DEATH of the Duke of Northumberland yesterday robs the country of one of the finest shots in the land. But his younger brother and heir, Lord Ralph



Lord Ralph Percy

George Algernon Percy, is no mean gun himself — featuring, as he does, in *The Field magazine's* Game-shooting First XI.

"The shot I most dislike is a high curling pheasant in a strong wind — over my head, or to the left and curling away," he says. "I am happier with a steadier bird over my right shoulder." He adds that a good lunch does not much affect his performance.

P.H.S

Alan Coren



As a birthday tribute, we present a major exploit — er, adaptation

I bear, a morn belatedly, two boons; and if you suspect a keynote to have been struck by that pinch of archaism wrapped up in an iambic pentameter, you are not wrong. For the boons I bear are surprise birthday gifts not only for John Keats, 200 yesterday, but also for all those who complained that the nation had done so little to commemorate him.

I do not blame the nation. The nation may have heard of Keats, just, but it has not read him. His works are not propped up on sauce bottles, piled up at Asda checkouts, or booted up best-seller lists. So, shall we put this down to the nation's being a philistine oik? How can we, when that is precisely what is currently happening to Jane Austen's works?

And there we are. The nation does not read Keats because his stuff has not been adapted for the telly. Or, even more important, attracted all the ancillary attention which accompanies being on the telly. That is why production is just about to start on my own four-part adaptation of *La Belle Dame Sans Merci*. We had, of course, been hoping for it to coincide with Keats's birthday, but you can imagine how hard it proved to cram 12 whole quatrains into a mere four hours. You know telly.

Part One finds a knight-at-arms, alone, and loitering as only Hugh Grant can, beside a lake from which the sedge has unaccountably withered. Initially, we see him from a distance, because besides being an extremely photogenic lake, it has also been hired from the Duke of Marlborough at enormous expense, and it would be chucking money away not to have a good ten minutes of it before we close in on Hugh, to discover him not merely pale, but also haggard and woe-begone. What can all him? Is he withering like the sedge, suggesting that he has caught something off the lake? We know he has been in the lake, because his armour is hanging from a tree and his wet shirt is plastered to him, very feebly indeed. You can see his nipples. (Should you want to buy them, the poster will be the centrepiece of that week's *Radio Times*.) The remainder of the episode is devoted to flash-backs concerning his recent crusade, lots of big battle scenes, several beheadings, two Saracen orgies, and a shot of King Richard telling him to return to England to check if the squirrel's granary is full and the harvest's done. On the trip home, he falls into a fever, giving rise to speculation, since there is a lily on his brow, that he might have caught something off a Saracen.

But with the opening of Part Two, we learn that it was in fact a fairy's child that he met, her hair long, her foot light, her eyes wild, and her bust really terrific. There is much explicit footage now, to enable the tabloids to speculate whether Hugh and Jennifer Ehle (for it is she) pursued their relationship beyond the screen: each appears on 17 different chat shows to deny it, allowing Tesco's to shift 80,000 copies of the *Collected Poems*, newly jacketed with their names on the front and Keats's on the inside back flap. I have naturally kept the sweet mourning of the original, but interpreted the words "fragrant zone" broadly enough to encourage at least three leading women's magazines to publish readers' quizzes. *Sunday Sport* rings Mary Archer.

The rest of the episode finds them sharing a pacing steed, while Jennifer sings a fairy's song which I fully expect to go straight to Number One. Part Three, of course, lingers on the activities back at her elfin grove, which I have been compelled to extend beyond kisses four, to encourage W H Smith to re-order, and ends with Hugh dropping off, not surprisingly. He is still gorgeously asleep as Part Four opens, but is now dreaming a dreadful dream, albeit teeming with wonderfully paley-lit cameo roles, in which most of the top royal names in medieval society tell him about the affairs they have all had with this belle dame of his. It is possible that the tabloids, as is their appalling wont, may attempt to draw unsavoury parallels here, but they will wrinkle out nothing on the subject from me. I shall simply tell them to go out and buy the book. I am, after all, only doing this for poor Johnny Keats.



ULSTER OLD AND NEW

Trimble has seized the initiative from Sinn Féin

Despite its advance billing, yesterday's meeting between Martin McGuinness and Michael Ancram yielded no significant breakthrough in the Anglo-Irish peace process. Once again, a convicted IRA member warned a democratically elected minister of what will happen if the republican movement does not get what it wants. In Washington, meanwhile, David Trimble was breaking new ground, showing that Sinn Féin-IRA is not the only organisation that can take its message on tour. The shoe is now firmly on the other foot.

Since his successful visit to Dublin, the new Unionist leader has confounded his critics by putting the case for pragmatic Unionism in the capital city of the nationalist front. Mr Trimble's election in September was widely interpreted as a blow to the peace process, an indication of the Unionist community's retreat to the bunker. In fact, the MP for Upper Bann has been a breath of fresh air. He is willing to defend his constituency to whoever will listen, wherever they choose. He wants to reform the Orange Order's relationship with his party. After years of stagnation and drift, the UUP has unexpectedly regained the initiative.

Sinn Féin, in contrast, can only repeat the hostile mantras of the past. Last week Gerry Adams alleged that the British Government had "reinforced the argument for physical force republicanism". This claim is so contemptible that it barely deserves to be addressed. In his three-point plan for IRA disarmament — the so-called "Washington principles" — the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, has done as much as any statesman could be expected to do to accommodate the paramilitaries' anxieties. Ministers have studiously avoided the word "surrender" in this context, demanding only that the men of violence hand over a token cache of arms and

demonstrate their willingness to continue the process.

It now appears that the republican movement expects to be admitted to all-party talks on the second anniversary of the Downing Street declaration on December 15, after President Clinton's visit this month. Sinn Féin leaders should not forget paragraph 10 of the Downing Street declaration which expects "a permanent end to the use of, or support for, paramilitary violence".

While republicans obfuscate and dissemble, Mr Trimble is looking for fresh solutions to old problems. He is rightly keeping up the pressure for systematic disarmament. But he has also proposed an ingenious mechanism to hasten all-party talks.

The Ulster Unionist Party is now willing to discuss the future of Ulster with Sinn Féin across the floor of a special assembly, designed to facilitate the peace process rather than to run the Province. Its elected members would have a clear democratic mandate to negotiate the future of Northern Ireland. In Mr Trimble's words, Unionists would be obliged to recognise the legitimacy of Sinn Féin delegates, "at a time when they would not have fulfilled all the requirements of the declaration".

The UUP has made clear that the proposed convention would not be a new Stormont and would not have the administrative powers which nationalist politicians so fear. This is not a Trojan Horse concealing an internal settlement. On the contrary: it is a profoundly imaginative way of bringing the republican movement to the table without reference to the disarmament process. It represents a generational change in Unionist politics. Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness ought to welcome this proposal with open arms. The fact that they have not shows how frightened they are of the people whose future they presume to dictate.

STAYING ON

Quebec elects to remain part of Canada — for now

So close was the vote in Quebec — and so nerve-racking the final stages — that had the referendum been a Test match the federalist victory would have been by one run off the last ball of the very last over. Monday's referendum, however, was no mere game: on it depended the political future of millions of Quebecers, and the shape of Canada itself. As it transpired, a *crêpe-thin* majority declined to vote in favour of a sovereign independent Quebec, thus turning back at the ramparts the impassioned crusade of Lucien Bouchard and his separatist Bloc Québécois.

The reverse at the referendum seems not to have dimmed Mr Bouchard's lights. "Keep hope," he told a dejected rally yesterday, "because the next time will be ours." It is not clear when the "next time" will come, although the frustrated separatist campaigner believes that it will be "sooner than we think". Mr Bouchard's combative language — and the less savoury utterances of Quebec's Premier, Jacques Parizeau — make clear that Canada's political establishment would do well not to mistake a victory in the referendum for an end to the separatist polemic. Nearly 50 per cent of those who voted did, after all, vote "yes"; and even allowing for the relative opacity of the question that was set before the citizens of the province, the "yes" vote was certainly one for a *Québec libre*.

What will happen next? The answer, curiously, could lie in the text of the very question posed in the referendum: "a new economic and political partnership" with Canada. There is no reason why this should not be possible within the constitutional framework of the Canadian federation, without the outright separation from Canada which a numerical majority has now rejected. If

other Canadians expect the "losing side" to accept a democratic verdict, then they too must accept that nearly half of Quebec is discontented. This discontent is a political reality from which Ottawa cannot escape, and to which it must respond: it is simply not good enough to say that Quebec's unhappiness has no apparent practical or rational basis.

Jean Chrétien, the Canadian Prime Minister — who chose bravely to take on Mr Bouchard in the last, fevered week of the referendum campaign — has reacted sagely to yesterday's result. Addressing the divided citizens of the province on television, he declared that he understood their "deep desire for change", and promised immediately to "seek innovative solutions". What these solutions are, or could be, is still not clear. Canada's politicians, not those in Ottawa and Quebec alone but in each of the country's provinces, must now devise a better political geometry, one that accommodates reasonable Quebec concerns and also defuses the still-live pressure to secede.

There is no reason why this should not be possible, although Canada's written Constitution is likely to prove less malleable than an unwritten one might have been in comparable circumstances. The referendum was an exceptional example of democracy in practice — Mr Bouchard, let us not forget, would have been imprisoned for his views in nine out of ten of the world's countries, let alone being allowed to lead a campaign to within an inch of secession. Canada has demonstrated how even the most emotive of questions, that of federal and territorial integrity, can be addressed by civilised methods. Let those methods now work overtime for the country's unity and stability.

ROMANTIC HERO

Keats's poems are in better repair than his Hampstead house

Contrary to what John Keats wrote, it was not stout Cortez who first stared at the Pacific. But Balboa. And to compound the Keatsian licence, this ocean was not even known as the Pacific in Balboa's time. Our poet, clearly, was unsound on both history and geography.

Keats was unsound also on astronomy, common sense and life. Precisely what western islands do which birds hold in fealty to Apollo, and why? Discuss. What exactly can he have meant by the image of "thou still unravish'd bride of quietness"? His career was a disaster. He sold only 250 books during his life of fewer than 26 years. He attracted the most bitchy reviews in the history of criticism. Byron, from jealousy, called his work piss-a-bed poetry. "Such writing is a sort of mental masturbation, a bedlam vision produced by raw pork and opium," Croker, from lethal snobbery, put Keats down as a disciple of cockney poetry, "which may be defined to consist of the most incongruous ideas in the most uncouth language".

He was only five feet tall, emotionally as well as vertically challenged. His love affair with Fanny Brawne was frustrated, unconsummated and impossible because of his poverty and tuberculosis. There is even uncertainty about his birthday 200 years ago. The parish register of St Botolph's, Bishopsgate, records it as Halloween. The family tradition, which Keats himself accepted, fa-

voured October 29. The epitaph he composed for his tombstone in Rome goes: "Here lies one whose name was writ in water."

As usual, Keats got it wrong. His name is written in more enduring stuff than bronze. He has become the James Dean of poetry, tragic star of the Romantic, and still a hero for the young and irritated to the pedantic unpoetic. On *First Looking into Chapman's Homer* may be high-flown and historically rubbish. At the age of 20, having sat up all night reading Chapman's new translation of Homer, Keats dashed off his most famous sonnet in an hour. His language is still a royal road into poetry, with such colloquialisms as planet "the wandering one" and the vivid image of it "swimming" into the ken of the watcher of the skies. It is still the most famous and best-loved, and perhaps the best, poem of the Romantic movement.

Wordsworth's house has been looked after well, as have those of the other Lakeland poets. Most other homes of English poets are preserved and sometimes, as at Stratford, over-commercialised for the literary tourist trade. Yet Keats's house in Hampstead sits with its 6,000 books, while Camden council procrastinates in order for the Charity Commission to allow the Corporation of London to take it over: there is no credit in this for anyone. The BBC romanticises Jane Austen and George Eliot, but neglects our greater Romantic. In spite of all such neglect, however, Keats lives on.

Why the domestic violence Bill should become law

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

From Miss Brenda M. Long

Sir, How disappointing that Conservative MPs have pressed for the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill to be shelved (report, October 27).

This is a Bill which has been under consideration by the Law Commission since 1989 and had been going through Parliament under the fast-track procedure. It is more of a consolidation than a reforming Bill and was well thought out to give proper protection to those suffering from violence or harassment.

It is quite wrong to say that the Bill "would have extended to unmarried women legal safeguards against domestic violence now restricted to wives". Under legislation dating back to 1976 (the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act) one of a couple living together as husband and wife can obtain an order against the other excluding them from the joint home or part of it for a period of time. However, such orders are considered by the courts to be draconian and therefore there must usually have been serious violence to obtain them. This would not be changed by the Bill.

The Bill would not give co-habitees the right to claim an interest in property in which they do not already have an interest. It would merely provide for them to live there alone for a limited period of time, free from violence, whilst alternative arrangements are made.

Currently, injunctions can be ob-

tained under three different statutes and also ancillary to other civil remedies. Different courts have jurisdiction, different procedures apply and the protection which can be obtained varies. This Bill would have brought the remedies under one umbrella. It is legislation which the battered woman (or man), whether married or not, really needs.

Naturally the Government is anxious not to have its fingers burned again after the force of the Child Support Act, but making an overnight decision to shelve a perfectly good piece of legislation without proper consideration is not the answer.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDA LONG,
Blandy & Blandy (solicitors),
1 Friar Street,
Reading, Berkshire,
October 27.

From the Principal and Chief Executive, NCH Action for Children, and others

Sir, Domestic violence is a serious social problem and a crime. The British Crime Survey 1992 estimated there are 530,000 assaults on women by men in the home each year. As childcare organisations, we are particularly concerned about the impact of domestic violence on children.

We are therefore deeply worried about the current uncertainty concerning the passage of the Family Homes and Domestic Violence Bill

through Parliament. In our view, this Bill usefully strengthens the protection available to women and children. We particularly welcome its introduction of the principle that a power of arrest should usually be attached to injunctions, allowing the police immediately to arrest someone who breaches their terms.

We believe that the Bill serves to support family life and advances the best interests of children. Children need security and stability at home, whatever the marital status of their parents. The Bill, if enacted, would help children living in violent situations to be safe in the short term, pending a full legal hearing about occupation of the family home and other related matters. It is no threat to long-term property rights.

If the Bill is withdrawn the security of many children and their mothers will be jeopardised. What message does this give to those who perpetrate violence in our society?

Yours etc,
TOM WHITE
(NCH Action for Children),
JIM HARDING
(NSPCC),
IAN SPARKS
(The Children's Society),
M. J. TAYLOR
(Save the Children Fund),
NCH Action for Children,
Central Office,
85 Highbury Park, N5,
October 30.

Good and bad in bus deregulation

From the Shadow Transport Minister

Sir, I was amused to read Steven Norris's remarks (letter, October 26) on the semantics of Graham Searjeant's article on bus deregulation (October 24). The result of this ten-year-old social experiment has been increased congestion, higher bus prices, a tripling of the number of buses in poor condition, ridership reduced by 25 per cent and many of our towns turned into battlefields for cowboy operators.

Whether it is straightforwardly called "re-regulation" or whether one tries to disguise it as "smoothing the operation of services", the fact is that new measures to stop restrictive practices, to reduce pollution on our high streets and to cut fares are desperately needed.

If Mr Norris's working party doesn't take the necessary action to correct the glaring defects of deregulation, an incoming Labour government will not shirk the task.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM ALLEN
(MP for Nottingham North),
House of Commons,
October 26.

From Mr Brian Cox

Sir, Your article on bus deregulation paints an only partially recognisable picture.

Unfortunately, the missing parts of the story are the benefits brought about by deregulation and privatisation — such as today's full order books for bus manufacturers, the many instances of new services provided with-

out cost to the public purse, and the increase in rural bus use since deregulation, as demonstrated by the Department of Transport's own figures.

Yes, overall bus patronage has fallen outside London since deregulation, but it is now falling at the slowest rate for over 20 years. Much of the fall was caused by the cessation of politically motivated low-fares policies in metropolitan areas after 1986 and the hardest recession for many years. My company, and others, have now reversed the decline and are showing passenger increases.

It seems to me silly to talk of ending the "experiment" after it has gone through its period of trauma and is now showing real dividends — indeed, "blossoming", as Steven Norris says.

I welcome tougher regulation of vehicle quality: this is the biggest single step necessary to bring competition to a sensible basis and generate sustainable benefit to the consumer, whose interests are often forgotten in all the dogma — pro or anti — about deregulation. This, along with some of Steven Norris's other suggestions on improving standards, would enable bus operators to develop even further.

We at Stagecoach will continue to invest in new buses and improved services, and let our increasing numbers of passengers be the judge.

Yours faithfully,

BRIAN COX
(Executive Director),
Stagecoach Holdings plc,
20 Charlotte Street, Perth,
October 26.

Ostrich farming

From Mr Philip Lymbrey

Sir, I am appalled that in a half-page eulogy about ostrich farming, not one mention has been made about the welfare considerations of these giant birds ("Speculators risk their necks on ostriches", October 28).

Ostriches are exotic and essentially wild animals. They are not only dangerous, requiring licensing under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, but are also easily frightened and potentially difficult to handle. They are adapted for life on the wide open plains of Africa, not small, barren paddocks in lowland Britain.

If this infant industry takes off, it raises the possibility of ostriches being transported over long distances. The American Ostrich Association regards the transport of ostriches as being "dangerous and stressful for both

man and beast". This was confirmed recently with the death of 21 ostriches en route from Devon to Manchester airport.

With investment money apparently pouring into ostrich farming, it seems strange that the small matter of exactly where and how ostriches will be slaughtered in Britain remains an unanswered question.

With concern for animal welfare amongst the general public at an all-time high, it seems incredible that a new livestock industry could start up in this country without the implications for the welfare of the animals involved being fully thought through.

Yours sincerely,

PHILIP LYMBREY
(Campaigns Director),
Compassion in World Farming,
Charles House, 5a Charles Street,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
October 30.

Baptism of choice

From Mr Alan M. Linfield

Sir, The central difficulty of the "Next Steps" concept of accountability in government (letter, October 25) is the highly political nature of the detailed outputs of government, affecting as they generally do the rights, liberties and pockets of the citizen.

There is no way of systematically disconnecting this detail from "policy" considerations, as your correspondents Professor and Mrs Caines seek to do when they — or the Next Steps document — refer to "that area in which a clear distinction between operations and policymaking can be drawn". There are no such areas, and the head of an agency and its principal subordinates have to be, or to become, policymakers pretty damn quick if they are to survive.

Until recently, a degree of inefficiency and confusion was always considered a necessary price for democratic arrangements within which ministers neither will, nor can, keep away from the detail.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN RIMINGTON,
9 Highbury Hill, N5,
October 25.

A case for less pomp at Palace?

From Mr Philip Ray

Sir, I applaud the moves by Buckingham Palace to make the Court Circular more reader-friendly (Diary and letter, October 26). The next stage for its compilers should be to tackle the over-use of initial capital letters.

Today's Court Circular, for instance, reports the Arrival of the Irish President at Heathrow, while Prince Edward attended an Opening Night Reception and the Duchess of Gloucester went to a Concert.

It was left to the Duke of Kent to attend a (lower case) reception.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP RAY,
6 Cleve Terrace,
Lewes, East Sussex,
October 26.

From Mr Kenneth S. Solly

Sir, I share Dame Barbara Cartland's and your correspondent's resentment at the decision of Buckingham Palace to simplify the wording of Court Circulars. It can only be a retrograde step if the pomp and circumstance surrounding the authority of our royal house is to be eroded in this way. I would have thought those responsible had better and more pressing matters to occupy their time.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH S. SOLLY,
River Yarra, Ravens Road,
Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex,
October 27.

From Mr H. H. Sebag-Montefiore

Sir, I read that the flowery prose of the daily Court Circular is to be pruned and made more appealing.

While retaining the title of Majesty for the Monarch, I wonder if the time has come for the abandonment of the lofty accolade of His or Her Royal Highness for princes and princesses.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD SEBAG-MONTEFIORE,
78 Vicarage Gate, W8,
October 26.

Popular sculpture

From Mr John Pittuck

Sir, Having praised a particular work of the sculptor, Rosalind Stracey, what a pity that Mr M. B. Stathers (letter, October 26) should go on to lump together materials which some artists have employed in recent years and to consider their use in art as somehow inferior. Fresh plaster and powdered colour pigments are not very glamorous either until treated inventively by a Michelangelo.

I have reservations about certain works of art, both ancient and modern, myself; however, I do not believe that artistic expression and integrity should be dependent on public approval. Were they ever?

Give me notoriety in art rather than popularity any time. I would rather the confrontational and direct statement of creatures suspended in form-kaleidoscope (report, October 30) than the sometimes mawkish, anthropomorphic creatures of Landseer.

There is little doubt, however, which way a postal or telephone vote would go: open competition by all means — but public approbation is entirely another matter.

Let's leave the artists to enrich and extend their language, and ours; it is not their job to pander to public taste.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN PITTUCK,
62 Dunmow Road,
Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire,
October 30.

Practical research

From Professor J. B. Kinson

Sir, I am surprised by the attitude of Professor Seville and others (letter, October 28) to fundamental physics research. It may be true that no great financial benefits have yet come from the study of quarks. However the universe (including ourselves) is made of quarks, so it is clearly of interest to understand the basic laws of nature that govern their behaviour.

When Faraday and others investigated the basic laws of electromagnetism, this was fundamental physics research with no obvious applications. Indeed the technologists of the time (such as blacksmiths) probably complained that the physicists did not "earn their daily cornflakes", and contrasted this with the large annual amount spent on horsehoes. However, it is now difficult to imagine the modern world without electricity.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN KINSON,
The University of Birmingham,
School of Physics and Space Research,
Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT,
October 29.

Triumph of Prejudice

From Mr Dorian R. W. Baker

Sir, Would that all television script-writing and direction were as faithful, subtle and economical as *Pride and Prejudice*. Vain hope. But if other television producers studied this series and its ratings they might be gracious enough to admit that we are not as dumb as they usually take us to be.

Yours faithfully,
DORIAN R. W. BAKER,
The Limes, 633 Wellsbury, Bath, Avon,
October 30.

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

HAROLD TAYLOR

Harold Taylor, CBE, theoretical physicist, university administrator and scholar of Anglo-Saxon architecture, died on October 23 aged 88. He was born on May 13, 1907.

HAROLD TAYLOR was one of that small group of New Zealanders who have contributed so much over the last half century to knowledge of Anglo-Saxon England and the English inheritance. For Taylor this was an interest developed in the context of a sequence of wholly different careers — and one which only emerged in public in 1965 with the appearance of the first two volumes of *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, written in collaboration with his first wife, Joan (née Sills).

For more than thirty years Taylor was the central figure in the architectural and archaeological approach to the study of Anglo-Saxon churches, bringing to an inchoate field the precision of description and lucidity of exposition from his long experience as a theoretical physicist and academic administrator.

Harold McCarter Taylor was born in Dunedin, New Zealand, of Scots and Northern Irish Presbyterian parents, and educated at Otago Boys' High School and the University of Otago, where he took a first in mathematics and physics. Coming to England in 1928, to Clare College, Cambridge, he took the second part of the Mathematics Tripos in 1930, was Wrangler with Distinction in Section B, and began research under Nevill Martin. His first paper, published in the *Proceedings of the Royal Society* in 1931, was on the interaction between alpha-minus particles, as deduced from their scattering, and he won a Smith's Prize the next year.

This was followed by major papers in the *Proceedings* as first author with Moti in 1932 and 1933 on the internal conversion of gamma-minus rays, a line of work initiated in 1927 by Bertha Swirles (Lady Jeffreys). The next eight years were devoted to research in theoretical physics, and after 1936 increasingly to teaching and faculty administration, and to preparation for war.

Taylor had been commissioned in the New Zealand Territorial Army in 1925 at the age of 18. In England he continued in the TA, joined up in the Royal Artillery, and in July 1941 took the eighth war gunnery staff course

at the School of Artillery at Larkhill.

On the second day when most students were still overawed at being there at all, the instructor in Gunnery, commissioned in 1919, was having much difficulty explaining the difference between the rocking bar and the independent-line-of-sight systems. "To our horror... one student asked if he could help which he did in two minutes flat and with absolute clarity. The IG's comment was, 'Thank you — now we all know.'" Taylor went on to become Senior Instructor in Gunnery at Larkhill. Ending the war as a lieutenant-colonel, he was awarded in 1946 the J. H. Jeffry Gold Medal for "furthering the science and application of artillery", the first non-regular officer to receive it.

In 1945 the Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge asked Taylor to offer himself for the post of Treasurer of the University. He was to remain at Cambridge for 16 years, first as Treasurer, and then for a further eight years as Secretary-General of the Faculties. All the qualities seen in his earlier work were now placed at the service of the university. The breadth of his interests appeared not only in reports on future policy but especially in suggestions for joint courses in arts and sciences.

This reflected his own intellectual journey from theoretical physics to the study of Anglo-Saxon architecture, first displayed in the late 1950s in lectures to undergraduates studying Archaeology and Anthropology. His audiences were mostly prehistorians, but he did them the honour of supposing them as fascinated as he was by these little-known churches. He won their interest and respect for clarity and detail in analysis, through his dry wit and enthusiasm in presentation. He was appointed CBE in 1955.

In 1961 Taylor was appointed Principal of the University College of North Staffordshire, becoming the following year the first Vice-Chancellor of the new University of Keele. Here he deployed to the full his view that the role of the administrator was to serve scholarship rather than direct it. Modest, embodying the Cambridge manner, precise, courteous, undramatic, orderly, his great contribution was the imposition of discipline in administration.

One of his first acts was to



establish a Vice-Chancellor's fund to help members of the university in need. In 1963 he set up a counselling service, covering educational, vocational and personal needs, the first of its kind in the country. He was very much respected, still regarded by some as the best Vice-Chancellor the university has had. But as a kindly man whose firm Christian faith shone through all he did, and being somewhat of the old school, Taylor could not be entirely happy with the changes that were taking place among students in the 1960s. It was a time also of personal tragedy for him with the death of his wife in January 1965. Only weeks later the first two volumes of their joint work, *Anglo-Saxon Architecture*, were published. The following year he married his personal assistant, Judith Samuel, but at 60 the time had come to retire

and in 1967 he returned to Cambridge.

There now followed two decades of some of the most productive work in his long career. Taylor's interest in Anglo-Saxon architecture had begun soon after arriving in England. For over three decades he and Joan had travelled the country by bicycle and car to visit and record more than 400 churches in which traces of Anglo-Saxon work were thought to have survived. When not travelling, his first wife worked day after day in the university library systematically combing the thousands of volumes of the proceedings of national and local archaeological societies for the slightest reference to Anglo-Saxon structure. At Keele, as publication of the volumes containing the results of this great pilgrimage of scholarship approached, he and his wife got up

before dawn to carry on the work, but Harold Taylor never failed to reach the Vice-Chancellor's office by 9am.

The two volumes of their *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (1965) set out to provide "for the future... a more comprehensive and exact record than would otherwise be available." In this they succeeded. But they also hoped "to build up a more precise system of dating than has hitherto been possible for pre-Conquest churches".

Taylor, now ably assisted by his second wife Judith, set himself the retirement task of achieving this system. Sadly, though, in the third and final volume of *Anglo-Saxon Architecture* (1978) he had to conclude that "the time is not ripe for firm pronouncements about the dates of more than a handful of the buildings described in [the] first two volumes." The third volume concentrated instead "on establishing a well-defined group of Anglo-Saxon churches and analysing all their features in detail". Taylor contributed to this more sceptical view, now generally held, in a series of nearly fifty papers and notes published between 1965 and 1987.

In these years he also encountered archaeological excavation, and moved from being a lone worker high on a ladder with measuring instruments of his own devising to being a member of the teams he so enthusiastically and generously supported. At Deerhurst with Professor Philip Rahtz and L.A.S. Butler in the early 1970s, and above all Repton with the Biddles from 1974 to 1988, Taylor embraced the disciplines and approaches of a new method of inquiry with all the acuteness and perception he had brought to theoretical physics half a century earlier.

Taylor kept working well into his eighties, having celebrated his eightieth year by climbing the steeplejack's ladder to the top of Repton's 200ft spire. Later he began to fail and during the devastating illness of his last two years his suffering and Judith's were greatly relieved by the generous and loving care they received at the nursing home where he spent his time. The love of the Scriptures never left him, and to them he could still respond.

He is survived by his second wife, Judith, and by the two sons and two daughters of his first marriage.

TERRY SOUTHERN



Terry Southern, novelist and screenwriter, died in a New York hospital on October 29 aged 71. He was born in Alvarado, Texas, on May 1, 1924.

helped to carry him through lean years when his creativity dried up. After twenty years in the doldrums he finally resurfaced after a fashion with a novel *Texas Summer* in 1992.

The son of a pharmacist, Southern first intended to be a doctor, but his studies to that end at Southern Methodist University were cut short by the Second World War. He served for two years in the US Army in Europe. At the end of that time he had decided on a literary career and, after three years at the University of Chicago and at Northwestern, he went to Paris where he studied at the Sorbonne.

He also began to write, at first under the influence of Céline and Kafka, and published his first stories in the *Paris Review*, vehicle for the work of many American expatriate writers at that time. In 1952 he returned to America where he settled in New York's Greenwich Village. By this time he had discovered the novels of Henry Green whose influence he always acknowledged.

Flash and Filagree, which closely followed *Candy* (though since publication of the latter was held up so long it is effectively his first), is perhaps his masterpiece. It is erotic without being tiresome. One of its scenes, a seduction in a car at a drive-in movie, is worthy of Green at his best. The later *Blue Movie* is by comparison a nervous, jaded exercise.

In the meantime the publication of *Candy* in the US in 1964 had ended Southern's years of indigence. The cinema now beckoned, and as it has done with so many writers before, probably destroyed him. *Dr Strangelove* stands out in a list of film titles that contains much else that is flaccid or conventional. *The Cincinnati Kid* (1965) — Steve McQueen playing two hours of poker against Edward G. Robinson — had its moments, but few of them had to do with Southern's writing talents. *Barbarella* (1968) was a meretricious concoction of futurist mumbo-jumbo, which was very largely a vehicle for the frequent drooling of the comely Jane Fonda. *Easy Rider*, though it sharply observed much of what constituted contemporary America, allowed its hippy protagonists to escape in a haze of sentiment which was quite uncharacteristic of Southern at his satirical peak.

Southern never really recovered the creative edge he had possessed in the Fifties. He was ruefully to admit of writing scripts for Hollywood: "As far as exercising any creative control over your work, you can forget it. You have the power of persuasion, and that's it." His most recent novel, *Texas Summer*, was roughly handled by the critics. Hollywood high living had taken its toll and as a Dallas paper recently said of him, he looked increasingly "like the lone survivor of a train wreck".

His marriage to Carol Kauffman was dissolved. He is survived by his son and his longtime companion Gail Gerber.

the hands pressed together: she returned the traditional greeting. The third, Sub-Inspector Beant Singh of the Delhi Armed Police, fired at her with his revolver. As she fell the other two began firing. Constable Sarwan Singh emptied 30 rounds of his Sten gun at her as she lay on the ground.

Both he and Inspector Beant were themselves shot by other guards. Beant Singh died. Sarwan Singh was taken to hospital, where he was said to be recovering. The third assailant was overpowered unarmed.

"They sounded to me like fire crackers at first, but later I realised they were weapons firing," said Mr Untov, who was held at the residence for five hours and only released when the authorities were certain that his team had not filmed the assassination.

Mrs Gandhi was rushed to the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences. She was operated on for four hours but never regained consciousness and died at 2.30pm local time. She would have been 67 this month.

On Tuesday, in one of her last public statements, Mrs Gandhi had spoken of dying in the service of India. "Even if I died in the service of the nation, I would be proud of it," she said. "Every drop of my blood, I am sure, will contribute to the growth of this nation and to make it strong and dynamic..."

KENNETH DADZIE

Kenneth Dadzie, Ghanaian diplomat and United Nations official, died of a heart attack in London on October 25 aged 65. He was born in Accra on September 10, 1930.

AN ADROIT tactician and progressive diplomat, Kenneth Dadzie was the first African to hold a series of high offices in economic and social fields within the United Nations. Picking his way skilfully through ideological minefields, he became known for his ability to bring about consensus while never losing sight of his own development mission.

As Secretary-General of the UN Conference on Trade and

Development (Unctad), an organisation focusing on the economic interests of the Third World, he played a crucial role in challenging developed and developing countries to take new initiatives in solving global problems of growth and development, breaking through the barriers of the North-South divide which, before his appointment, had slowly brought international development co-operation to a grinding halt.

Dadzie argued for the liberalisation of trade, embracing the idea of open markets and progressive policies in the private sector. Moderate but committed, and with a refreshing breadth of vision, he fought for agree-

ment on improved international debt strategy, always challenging (yet never rashly discarding) prevailing orthodoxies.

Yet Dadzie learnt by grueling experience how difficult it is to reform an unwieldy and recalcitrant organisation such as the UN. Industrialised countries, particularly the United States, became increasingly critical of Unctad, regarding it as anti-Western and unproductive. Its former emphasis on development through transfer of resources from rich to poor nations found no echo in a climate dominated by George Bush's "new world order" of the early 1990s.

Dadzie's powers were gradually cut away as Unctad's role was diluted to one in which the discussion of domestic policies such as honest government, political freedoms and environmentally sustainable development became the principal issues. The abandoned child of a new international economic order, at the top of most Western governments' hit-list for abolition, he was progressively sidelined by Boutros Boutros Ghali before leaving the post when his term of office ended in 1994.

Kenneth Kwaku Sinaman Dadzie was educated first at Achimota College, Gold Coast (now Ghana), and then at Queens' College, Cambridge, where he took a degree in the Economics Tripos in 1952. Returning to the Gold Coast, he then joined the Civil Service where he gained experience in various posts of high responsibility before being selected for the Ghanaian foreign service in 1956 — looking outwards perhaps at a time when his own country flourished in the mires of post-colonial economic chaos.

From 1956 onwards he became Ghana's deputy permanent representative to the UN and from 1960 to 1963 his representative to the Security Council. He then went on to represent Ghana permanently at the UN office in Geneva, concurrently serving as Ambassador to Austria and Switzerland.

Closely associated with milestones in the evolution of the UN, Dadzie worked on issues concerning decolonisation with the Organisation of African Unity and, from 1971 to 1973, he was closely involved with the UN assistant secretary-general for Inter-agency Affairs and Co-ordination before eventually himself becoming, in 1978, the first Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

When he was removed from this position by Pérez de Cuéllar in 1983, just a year after de Cuéllar had come into office, African ambassadors to the UN complained about racial discrimination and set up a committee to monitor their continent's representation in the secretariat. Although Dadzie's value was well recognised by his own country — he was made Ghana's High Commissioner in London — perhaps it was this complaint which instigated his appointment in 1986 to be Secretary-General of Unctad, a post to which he brought all the acquired skills of a career diplomat together with the non-aggressive disposition of his nation.

When his term of office ended in 1994 he returned to the post of High Commissioner in London. To do a good job, it was said, was not enough for him. He was in pursuit of excellence.

He was still serving in this post when he died.

FEAR SWEEPS INDIA AFTER ASSASSINATION OF MRS GANDHI

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN, DELHI

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, died yesterday in a hail of Sten gun and revolver bullets directed at her by Sikhs among the police guards who were supposed to be ensuring her security.

The assassination of a leader so powerful and dominant immediately plunged the country into a feverish fear for its integrity and unity, but administrative and party leaders moved swiftly to ensure political continuity by having her elder son, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, sworn in as Prime Minister.

As he did so, anguished mobs began to take revenge against Sikhs in the streets of the capital. No deaths have been confirmed but there was evidence late last night of their violence in vehicles overturned on streets.

Mr Gandhi appeared on television and appealed for calm. He also asked the country for its support in his new responsibilities. Dressed in a white kurta-pajama shirt, with an open neck, he read his speech in a rather hurried monotone. "We should remain calm

ON THIS DAY

November 1, 1984

Riots swept India after Indira Gandhi's assassination. In four days more than 1,000 people died. Mrs Gandhi's son Rajiv, who succeeded her, was killed in a bomb explosion in 1991.

and exercise maximum restraint. We should not let our emotions get the better of us, because passion clouds judgment."

Mrs Gandhi was killed in the grounds of her own home as she walked towards a wicket gate that separates her house, 1 Safdarjung Road, from its neighbour housing her staff offices on the corner of Akbar Road.

Waiting for her there was a team from Irish television including the British actor Peter Ustinov, who was about to interview her for a programme sponsored by Unicef.

As she came towards her assassins, two of them greeted her with a *namaste*, a bow with

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Political dismissal breaches fundamental freedoms

Vogt v Germany

(Case No 7/1994/454/535)

Before R. Ryssdal, President and Judges R. Bernhardt, F. Gollub, F. Matscher, L. E. Pettit, R. Macdonald, A. Spielmann, J. De Meyer, S. K. Martens, E. Palm, I. Fiolhøj, A. N. Loizou, J. M. Morenilla, M. A. Lopes Rocha, G. Mitsud Bennici, D. Godech, P. Jambrek, K. Jungwirth and P. Kuriš.

Registrar H. Perleth

Judgment September 26

A teacher's dismissal from the Lower Saxony civil service on account of her political activities on behalf of the German Communist Party (DKP) had breached articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights, the European Court of Human Rights held by 10 votes to nine.

Article 10 provides:

"1 Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers. This article shall not prevent states from requiring the licensing of broadcasting, television or cinema enterprises."

"2 The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary."

Article 11 provides:

"1 Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests."

"2 No restrictions shall be placed on the exercise of these rights other than such as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals or for the protection of the rights and freedoms of others. This article shall not prevent the imposition of lawful restrictions on the exercise of these rights by members of the armed forces, of the police or of the administration of the state."

On February 1, 1979 the applicant, Mrs Dorothea Vogt, who

taught German and French in a state secondary school at Jever, Lower Saxony, was appointed to a permanent teaching post as a civil servant with tenure for life (*Beamten auf Lebenszeit*). A report drawn up in March 1981 found that both her professional qualifications and her performance were fully satisfactory. Ms Vogt had, by her own account, been a member of the DKP since 1972.

After a preliminary investigation, the Weser-Ems regional council instituted disciplinary proceedings against her on July 13, 1982 on the ground that she had failed to comply with her duty of political loyalty (*politische Treuepflicht*) as a result of the various political activities in which she had engaged since the autumn of 1980.

Three statements of charges, drawn up on July 15, 1985, February 5 and December 2, 1986, listed Ms Vogt's public political activities on behalf of the DKP that were considered to be incompatible with her status as a civil servant.

On August 17, 1986 the Weser-Ems regional council provisionally dismissed Ms Vogt and from October of that year she was paid only 60 per cent of her salary.

On October 15, 1987 the Disciplinary Division of the Oldenburg Administrative Court found that the applicant had failed to comply with her duty of political loyalty in that she had played an active role in a party that pursued anti-constitutional aims. It ordered that she be dismissed as a disciplinary penalty.

On March 18, 1988 Ms Vogt appealed against that judgment to the Lower Saxony Disciplinary Court. The appeal was dismissed by a judgment of October 31, 1989, which upheld the lower court's decision in all respects.

On December 22, 1989 she lodged a complaint with the Federal Constitutional Court. On August 7, 1990 a panel of three judges declined to accept her complaint for adjudication as it did not offer sufficient prospects of success.

With effect from February 1, 1991 Mrs Vogt was re-employed as a teacher in the school education service of the Land of Lower Saxony. Prior to that, the Land Government had repealed the decree on the employment of extremists in the civil service (*Ministerpräsidenten-Beschluss* also known as the *Radikalerlass*) in Lower Saxony.

The application was lodged with the European Commission on February 13, 1991. It was declared admissible on October 19, 1992.

Having attempted unsuccessfully to secure a friendly settlement, the Commission drew up a

report on November 30, 1993 in which it established the facts of the case and expressed the opinion that there had been a violation of articles 10 and 11 and that it was not necessary to examine the application also under article 14 (thirteen votes to one).

The case was referred to the Court by the Commission and the German Government on respectively March 11 and 29, 1994.

In its judgment, the European Court of Human Rights held as follows:

1 Article 10

Mrs Vogt maintained that her dismissal from the civil service on account of her political activities in the DKP had infringed her right to freedom of expression secured under article 10 of the Convention.

A Whether there was an interference

The Court reiterated that the right of recruitment to the civil service was deliberately omitted from the Convention. Consequently, the refusal to appoint a person as a civil servant could not as such provide the basis for a complaint under the Convention.

That did not mean, however, that a person who had been appointed as a civil servant did not complain on being dismissed if he or she had rights under the Convention. Civil servants did not fall outside the scope of the Convention.

In articles 1 and 14, the Convention stipulated that anyone within [the jurisdiction] of the contracting states had to enjoy the rights and freedoms in Section 1 "without discrimination on any ground".

Moreover, article 11.2 *in fine*, which allowed states to impose special restrictions on the exercise of the freedoms of assembly and association by "members of the armed forces of the police or of the administration of the state", confirmed that as a general rule the guarantees in the Convention extended to civil servants.

The Court observed that a number of the contracting states imposed a duty of discretion on their civil servants. In Germany the duty of political loyalty had a special importance because of the experience of the Weimar Republic, which led to the desire to set up a "democracy capable of defending itself" in 1949. The applicant's dismissal therefore pursued a legitimate aim for the purposes of article 10.2.

3 "Necessary in a democratic society"

(a) General principles

The Court reiterated the basic principles laid down in its judgments concerning article 10.

(i) Freedom of expression constituted one of the essential foundations of a democratic society and one of the basic conditions for its progress and each individual's self-fulfilment.

Subject to article 10.2, it was

therefore been at the heart of the issue submitted to the Court, which accordingly concluded that there had been no interference with the right protected under article 10.1; see *Glavanis v Greece* (1992) 14 EHRR 561, paragraph 39.

Mrs Vogt, for her part, had been a permanent civil servant since February 1979. She was suspended in August 1986 and dismissed in 1987, as a disciplinary penalty, for allegedly having failed to comply with the duty owed by every civil servant to uphold the free democratic system within the meaning of the Basic Law.

According to the authorities, she had by her activities on behalf of the DKP and by her refusal to dissociate herself from that party, expressed views inimical to the above-mentioned system. It followed that there was indeed an interference with the exercise of the right protected by article 10 of the Convention.

B Whether the interference was justified

It therefore remained to establish whether the dismissal in issue complied with the requirements of article 10.2, in other words whether it had been "prescribed by law", whether it had pursued one or more legitimate aim or aims as defined in that paragraph and whether it had been "necessary in a democratic society" to attain such aims or aims.

"Prescribed by law"

The Court noted that the Federal Constitutional Court and the Federal Administrative Court had clearly defined the duty of political loyalty imposed on all civil servants by the relevant provisions of the Federal legislation and the legislation of the *Länder*, including section 61(2) of the Lower Saxony Civil Service Act.

2 Legitimate aim

The Court observed that a number of the contracting states imposed a duty of discretion on their civil servants. In Germany the duty of political loyalty had a special importance because of the experience of the Weimar Republic, which led to the desire to set up a "democracy capable of defending itself" in 1949. The applicant's dismissal therefore pursued a legitimate aim for the purposes of article 10.2.

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Subject to article 10.2, it was

applicable not only to "information" or "ideas" that were favourably received or regarded as inoffensive or as a matter of indifference, but also to those that offended, shocked or disturbed; such were the demands of that pluralism, tolerance and broadmindedness without which there was no democratic society.

Freedom of expression, as enshrined in article 10, was subject to a number of exceptions which, however, had to be narrowly interpreted and the necessity for any restriction had to be convincingly established; see *Handyside v United Kingdom* (December 7, 1976; Series A No 24 p23, paragraph 49; *Lingens v Austria* (July 8, 1986; Series A No 103 p26 paragraph 41); and *Jersild v Denmark* (September 23, 1994; The Times October 20, 1994; Series A No 298 p26, paragraph 37).

(ii) The adjective "necessary", within the meaning of article 10.2, implied the existence of a "pressing social need". The contracting states had a certain margin of appreciation in assessing whether such a need existed, but it went hand in hand with a European supervision, embracing both the law and the decisions applying to it, even those given by independent courts.

The court was therefore empowered to review the final ruling on whether a "restriction" was reconcilable with freedom of expression as protected by article 10.

(iii) The Court's task, in exercising its supervisory jurisdiction, was not to take the place of the competent national authorities, but rather to review under article 10 the decisions they delivered pursuant to their power of appreciation.

That did not mean that the supervision was limited to ascertaining whether the respondent state exercised its discretion reasonably, carefully and in good faith; what the Court had to do was to look at the interference complained of in the light of the case as a whole and determine whether it was "proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued" and whether the reasons adduced by the national authorities to justify it were "relevant and sufficient"; see *Sunday Times v United Kingdom* (No 2) (November 26, 1991; The Times November 27, 1991; Series A No 237 p29, paragraph 50).

In so doing, the Court had to satisfy itself that the national authorities applied standards which were in conformity with the principles embodied in article 10 and, moreover, that they based their decisions on an acceptable assessment of the relevant facts; see *Jersild* p26, paragraph 31).

Those principles applied also to civil servants. Although it was

legitimate for a state to impose on civil servants, on account of their status, a duty of discretion, civil servants were individuals and, as such, qualified for the protection of article 10 of the Convention.

It therefore fell to the Court, having regard to the circumstances of each case, to determine whether a fair balance had been struck between the fundamental right of the individual to freedom of expression and the legitimate interest of a democratic state in ensuring that its civil service properly furthered the purposes enumerated in article 10.2.

In carrying out that review, the Court would bear in mind that whenever civil servants' rights to freedom of expression were in issue the "duties and responsibilities" referred to in article 10.2 assumed a special significance, which justified leaving to the national authorities a certain margin of appreciation in determining whether the impugned interference was proportionate to the above aim.

(b) Application in the present case of the above-mentioned principles

In the present case the Court's task was to determine whether Mrs Vogt's dismissal corresponded to a "pressing social need" and whether it was "proportionate to the legitimate aim pursued".

To that end, the Court examined the circumstances of the case in the light of the situation existing in the Federal Republic of Germany at the material time.

The Court proceeded on the basis that a democratic state was entitled to require civil servants to be loyal towards the constitution. In that connection, it took into account Germany's experience under the Weimar Republic and its position in the political context of the time.

Nevertheless, the absolute nature of that duty was striking. No other member state of the Council of Europe appeared to have imposed such a strict duty of loyalty and even in Germany it had been construed and implemented differently in the *Länder*.

The Court pointed out that there were several reasons for considering dismissal of a teacher to be a very severe sanction: the effect on the reputation of the person concerned, the loss of livelihood and the virtual impossibility in Germany of finding an equivalent post.

Mrs Vogt was a teacher of German and French in a secondary school, a post which did not intrinsically involve any security risks.

The risk lay in the possibility that, contrary to the special duties

and responsibilities incumbent on teachers, she would take advantage of her position to indoctrinate or exert improper influence in another way on her pupils during lessons.

Yet no criticism was levelled at her on that point. On the contrary, the applicant's work at school had been considered wholly satisfactory by her superiors and she was held in high regard by her pupils and their parents, and also by her colleagues; the disciplinary courts recognised that she had always carried out her duties in a way that was beyond reproach.

Indeed, the authorities only suspended the applicant more than four years after instituting disciplinary proceedings, thereby showing that they did not consider the need to remove the pupils from her influence to be a very pressing one.

Since teachers were figures of authority to their pupils, their special duties and responsibilities to a certain extent also applied to their activities outside school.

However, there was no evidence that Mrs Vogt herself, even outside her work at school, actually made anti-constitutional statements or personally adopted an anti-constitutional membership of the DKP, the posts she had held in that party and her candidature in the elections for the parliament of the *Land*.

Mrs Vogt consistently maintained her personal conviction that those activities were compatible with upholding the principles of the German constitutional order.

The disciplinary courts recognised that her conviction was genuine and sincere, while considering it to be of no legal significance, and indeed not even the prolonged investigations lasting several years were apparently capable of yielding any instance where Mrs Vogt had actually made specific pronouncements

belaying her emphatic assertion that she upheld the values of the German constitutional order. A final consideration to be borne in mind was that the DKP had not been banned by the Federal Constitutional Court and that, consequently, the applicant's activities on its behalf were entirely lawful.

In the light of all the foregoing, the Court concluded that, although the reasons put forward by the government in order to justify its interference with Mrs Vogt's right to freedom of expression were certainly relevant, they were not sufficient to establish convincingly that it was necessary in a democratic society to dismiss her.

Even allowing for a certain margin of appreciation, the conclusion had to be that to dismiss Mrs

Vogt by way of disciplinary sanction from her post as secondary school teacher was disproportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

There had accordingly, Judges Bernhardt, Gollub, Matscher, Loizou, Mitsud Bennici, Godech, Jungwirth, Kuriš and Jambrek dissenting, been a violation of article 10.

11 Article 11 of the Convention

The applicant also complained of a breach of her right to the freedom of association secured under article 11 of the Convention.

A Whether there was an interference

Notwithstanding its autonomous role and particular sphere of application, article 11 had, in the present case, also been considered in the light of article 10; see *Young, James and Webster v United Kingdom* (August 13, 1981; Series A No 44 p23 paragraph 57) and *Edin v France* (April 26, 1991; Series A No 202 p20 paragraph 37).

The protection of personal opinions, secured by article 10, was one of the objectives of the freedoms of assembly and association as enshrined in article 11.

With reference to the principles set forth in respect of article 10, Mrs Vogt, as a permanent civil servant, also qualified for the protection of article 11.

The applicant was dismissed from her post as a civil servant for having persistently refused to dissociate herself from the DKP on the ground that in her personal opinion membership of that party was not incompatible with her duty of loyalty.

There had accordingly been an interference with the exercise of the right protected by article 11.1

B Whether the interference was justified

It remained to be determined whether her dismissal satisfied the requirements of paragraph 2, which were in substance identical to those laid down in article 10.2, the only exceptions being provided for in the last sentence of article 11.

The Court considered that "administration of the state" within the meaning of article 11.2 should be interpreted narrowly, in the light of the post held by the official concerned.

Even if teachers were to be regarded as falling within that category, a question that the Court did not consider it necessary to determine in this instance, Mrs Vogt's dismissal had been disproportionate to the legitimate aim pursued.

There had accordingly also been a violation of article 11.

Judges Bernhardt, Gollub, Matscher, Loizou, Mitsud Bennici, Godech, Jungwirth, Kuriš and Jambrek dissenting.

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Theodore Zeldin, prophet of the new Renaissance



HOMES 41
Why a separate nanny flat can be a home help



SPORT 43-48
Jonathan Davies packs bags and heads for home

TELEVISION AND RADIO
Pages 46, 47

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1 1995

First ruling against accountant in Lloyd's saga Names win landmark case

By Sarah Bagnall

THE accountancy profession was dealt a severe blow yesterday when a group of Lloyd's names won a landmark High Court ruling against Ernst & Whinney, now part of Ernst & Young.

The ruling could result in E&Y paying a large share of an estimated £300 million in compensation for losses incurred by 1,321 litigating names on Merrett syndicate 418.

The vast majority of the names also won claims against Stephen Merrett, the syndicate's underwriter and a former deputy chairman of Lloyd's, his agency, the Merrett Underwriting Agency, and about 60 Lloyd's agencies. Each defendant is jointly and severally liable for any compensation the courts finally award. This is subject to a quantum ruling, the date of which is yet to be set.

John Mays, chairman of the Merrett 418 (1985) Names Association, said: "This judgment represents a stunning victory for our names. It is a landmark judgment against Ernst & Whinney and represents an enormous defeat for them. They represent a deep pocket as far as compensation is concerned."

In the long running saga of Lloyd's litigation this is the first ruling against a firm of accountants, although a string of other actions are pending. E&Y said it would appeal against the judgment and that "in the unlikely event of an appeal failing... any reasonable assessment is likely to put our contribution below £20 million."

The ruling by Mr Justice Cresswell is likely to pave the way for accountancy firms who acted as auditors to Lloyd's syndicates to make a sizeable contribution to bolster the £28 billion settlement package offered to names.

Mr Mays said he believed the £28 billion settlement package was inadequate. "I'm

looking for another £1 billion. I hope that a large part of that will come out of the auditors' pockets," he said.

The Merrett action was the first of the so-called "long-tail" actions to reach court. The syndicate's losses relate to asbestosis and pollution claims, principally from America. They are called long-tail because they can take decades for the claims to emerge.

The case involved names underwriting on the syndicate over numerous years. Mr Justice Cresswell ruled that of the 1,321 names who took action against E&Y, 1,243 won. However, of these the 55 who joined the syndicate in 1983 were time barred. The names alleged wrongful closure of earlier years of account by E&Y.

Under Lloyd's structure syndicate years are "closed" after three years of trading unless their losses are unquantifiable and then the year is "left open" and the losses stay with the names underwriting in that particular year. The action group members are alleging earlier years of accounts should have been left open.

Against the other defendants the names were claiming negligent underwriting as well as wrongful closure of years of account. The negligent underwriting related to 11 run-off reinsurance contracts written in 1982, which resulted in the Merrett syndicate taking on all the liabilities of 11 other syndicates.

Names were successful in their claim against the Merrett underwriting agency in respect of nine of the eleven contracts but two of them are time-barred. In the case of the members' agents, the names lost on the issue of run-off in every year of account but won their claim for wrongful closure in the 1984 and 1985 years of account.



John Mays, chairman of the Merrett 418 (1985) Names Association, hailed the judgment as a stunning victory for names

LITIGIOUS LLOYD'S									
DEFENDANTS									
Year of account	Number of plaintiffs joining in year of account	Total number of plaintiffs	AUDITORS (Wrongful closure claim)	MEMBERS' AGENTS (Run-off claim)	AGENTS (Wrongful closure claim)	MANAGING AGENTS (Run-off claim)	STEPHEN MERRETT (Run-off claim)	STEPHEN MERRETT (Wrongful closure claim)	STEPHEN MERRETT (Wrongful closure claim)
1979 and prior		619	No claim	Lost	No claim	Won	No claim	Lost	No claim
1980	26	645	Lost	Lost	Lost	Won	Lost	Lost	L
1981	21	666	Lost	Lost	Lost	Won	Lost	Lost	Lost
1982	31	697	Lost	Lost	Lost	Won	Lost	Lost	Lost
1983	55	752	Won but time barred	Lost	Lost	No claim	Won	No claim	Won
1984	325	1,077	Won	No claim	Won	No claim	Won	No claim	Won
1985	883	1,930	Won	No claim	Won	No claim	Won	No claim	Won

Pennington, page 27

Body Shop coy on talk of buyback

BODY SHOP yesterday sought to play down speculation that Anita and Gordon Roddick, the founders, might try to take the company private, but stopped short of an outright denial (Alasdair Murray writes).

The company admitted that the Roddicks had begun preliminary discussions on the issue, but that no proposal was expected in the near future, if at all.

It is believed their plans have been hampered by their inability to raise sufficient finance. The market, however, reacted favourably to the news of a possible buyout, the share price leaping 21p to close at 156p.

The mooted plan would involve setting up a charitable foundation to help to support Body Shop causes on the environment and development.

Body Shop was floated in 1985. It has 1,200 outlets and is worth £290 million.

Pennington, page 27
Private grief, page 29

MoD buyers leave British computer maker in the cold

By Ross Tremain, Industrial Correspondent

THE Ministry of Defence has excluded Britain's only builder of supercomputers, Meiko, from the contest to provide a £5 million machine for use in "virtual" nuclear tests at Aldermaston - even though the company has won a similar contract in America.

The British bid, although competitive on performance and cost, was ruled out - on "technical" grounds - without consideration of implications for Britain's technology base. Instead, the MoD has shortlisted the American-based Cray Research and IBM for the contract. Michael Heseltine, the Deputy Prime Minister, who has made the competitiveness of British industry a personal crusade, has been asked to intervene.

In the US, supercomputers are seen as a vital defence technology and imports are banned. To fulfil its \$21 million contract at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory,

Dunedin chairman and deputy join list of resignations

By Robert Miller

DUNEDIN, Scotland's second-largest investment house with more than £5 billion under management, has suffered a setback with the resignation of five senior executives, including the chairman and his deputy.

Harmish Leslie Melville, the chairman, has resigned, together with Alan Kemp, the deputy chief executive. Their departures follow the recent resignations of Peter Tair and Nigel Barry, both investment directors, and that of Gordon Anderson, head of investment, who left in the summer. It is understood that a further resignation, that of Doug Waggoner, who works in Chicago, will be announced soon.

The Bank of Scotland has a 51 per cent stake in the business, through the British Linen Bank, and Dunedin manages the bank's £1 billion pension fund. The group also looks after some £2 billion of US pension fund money and a

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Tribunal rejects Eurotunnel's £2.5bn claim

By Jonathan Prynn

EUROTUNNEL suffered a devastating setback to its financial survival plans last night when its £2.5 billion claim against the British and French national railways was thrown out by a European tribunal.

The rejection of the claim removes a key plank of the heavily indebted company's strategy to secure its long-term future. It has sought compensation from the operator of Eurostar for shortfalls in the number of passengers using the high-speed train between London, Brussels and Paris.

Eurotunnel had argued that passenger numbers had fallen far below those projected by the operator, European Passenger Services (EPS), which is owned jointly by the three national railway companies.

It was demanding a total renegotiation of its 1987 contract with EPS, or an increase of 55 per cent in EPS's payments for using the tunnel or a £2.5 billion lump sum.

The 220-page judgment, which was determined under the rules of the International Chamber of Commerce, was delivered to Eurotunnel last night. BR said in a statement last night that it "naturally welcomes the rejection of these claims, which were based on the contention that the railways should contribute to the costs of Eurotunnel's own cost overruns and delays."

A spokesman for Eurotunnel said the company was "very disappointed" about the outcome of the arbitration but said it would not affect its plans to reduce its £8 billion debt mountain.

Although Eurotunnel's main claim was rejected outright, the judgment did allow a number of subsidiary claims about EPS's alleged failure to reach various obligations under the tunnel usage contract. The tribunal ordered a six-month inquiry by experts to set the level of damages.

The company, which lost £465 million in the first half of the year, has effectively been given six months by its 225 bankers to produce plans for a massive restructuring of its debts. Failure to agree a survival plan would spell financial disaster for the company, which has already negotiated a suspension of its £2 million a day interest bill. A successful outcome to the claim against EPS would have provided a huge morale and financial boost for Eurotunnel in the run-up to its crucial talks with the bankers about the rescue plan next year.

The spokesman said the company continued to pursue a separate claim against TML, the group of contractors that built the £10 billion tunnel. It is also lobbying the Government for "a level playing field" with the ferry companies over sales of duty free.

Water firm will not bid for London Electricity

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

SHARES in London Electricity fell back by 18p to 902p yesterday after Thames Water, a rumoured suitor, ruled itself out. The water utility said it had failed to find any formula for a takeover that would make financial sense for its shareholders.

Sir Robert Clarke, chairman of Thames, even ruled it out as a "white knight" should London Electricity face a hostile bid from elsewhere.

London Electricity is rated highly, while other regional electricity companies have fallen to a variety of bids. It is now valued at £1.8 billion. Thames, one of the lowest-rated water groups, is valued at only £200 million more.

Thames and London are now discussing wide-ranging co-operation on sharing services to save costs.

Mike Hoffman, chief executive of Thames, said that such co-operation was a logical extension of its outsourcing programme and could cover, street works, customer service, billing and eventually information technology.

Thames's own shares gained 6p to 527p after the privatised water and sewage group announced a 10 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £165 million for the six months to September 30 and a 12 per cent rise in its interim dividend to 9.2p per share.

The results were at the top end of City forecasts. Thames said it should be able to raise its final dividend in proportion, although earnings per share rose by just 7 per cent.

David Luftrum, the finance director, said that the results were indicative of what could be achieved under the new price regime, but he indicated that the tax charge would rise next year, when Thames was likely to become liable to mainstream corporation tax at about 13 per cent in addition to tax on dividends.

The company made little attempt to follow the advice of Ian Byatt, the water regulator, to justify the dividend rise in detail to customers, arguing that it had avoided any water restrictions during the summer and already had the lowest customer charges.

Early completion of the Thames ring main, special pumping to restore underground supplies and intense mathematical modelling of the distribution network helped the company to maintain supplies despite a greater shortfall of rain than in the North.

Sir Robert heralded a turnaround for the group's much-troubled non-utility businesses, which made a reduced overall loss of £1.9 million in the half year. He said the overseas water operations would start to contribute in two years.

After more than four years chasing the Izmit build and operate contract, Thames now hopes to complete syndication of funding this month. Work has started on a Malaysian project. Contracts have been signed in Bangkok and Shanghai. The construction side, however, has been cut back and is likely to be sold.

Tempus, page 28

Gartmore to manage A&L funds

Gartmore, the quoted fund management firm put up for sale by Banque Indosuez, is to manage funds in Alliance & Leicester's new unit trust company to be launched next year.

Gartmore is the third largest manager of unit trusts in the UK with over £4 billion invested, and a total of £24 billion of funds under management.

A&L plans to set up a unit trust company in the first quarter of next year.

Egit passes

East German Investment Trust (Egit), which has attracted the German privatisation authorities over its attitude to inward investors, is again passing the interim dividend. Egit incurred a net loss of 1.4 million marks (three million marks loss) in the six months to September 30.

The loss per share was 0.025 mark (0.053 mark loss).

On target

Mezzanine Management, the independent private debt and equity fund manager, has raised \$155 million of the \$400 million target which would make it one of Europe's largest operators in its field.



David Rough, centre, with Michael Hayden, managing director, left, and Stephen Abbot, marketing director of Legal & General's retail investments products arm yesterday

New Pep from L&G to rival Virgin

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

LEGAL & GENERAL, the life assurance group, turned up the heat in the battle for the £206 billion personal savings market yesterday by launching a low-cost personal equity plan to rival Richard Branson's Virgin Pep.

L&G's index-tracking Pep has no initial charge, no withdrawal fee, an annual management charge of 0.5 per cent and a £25 plus VAT annual administration fee.

Total charges will be capped at 1 per cent. In addition, L&G is scrapping initial charges and withdrawal fees on its five existing Peps, and launching a new corporate bond Pep with no initial charge.

L&G hopes to poach existing Pep business from other companies, attract funds currently held in tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) which are due to mature in January and generate new custom in what is generally perceived to be a sluggish investment market.

David Rough, group director of investments, said the more money invested, the greater value the tracking Pep offered. At £3,000, the charge is £30, equivalent to an annual charge of 1 per cent at £30,000 the fee is just under £80.

The plan is invested in L&G's UK Index Trust, which holds nearly 72 per cent of shares in the FT-SE top 100 companies and 21 per cent in the next 250 biggest. Its average annual deviation since launch in September 1992 is 0.25 per cent above the FT-SE performance.

The Virgin Pep, launched in March with no initial charges, levies a 1 per cent annual charge and a 0.5 per cent withdrawal fee. Virgin Direct welcomed L&G's new Pep as "sounding the death knell for active management and high charges", adding it had no plans to reduce its charges.

German bank's derivatives loss

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

SAL OPPENHEIM, the family-owned German bank that is run by Karl Otto Pöhl, the former president of the Bundesbank, has disclosed "with regret" that one of its traders has lost it DM24 million on speculative trading in derivatives.

A spokesman for the bank, founded in the year of the French revolution and with a reputation for being arch-conservative and rather snobbish, said, however, that the loss was "not a Barings, either in amount, or origin".

It was incurred by Oppenheim's trading operation in Frankfurt and involved op-

tions on German bonds, a fact likely to fuel German anxiety about the risks in derivatives. Oppenheim underlined that, unlike the situation in the Nick Leeson disaster at Barings, it has a clear separation between its trading and settlement operations.

Furthermore, the "irregularities" were uncovered in August by its own internal control mechanisms.

The spokesman said that the period during which the losses were incurred was also "relatively short".

The Jewish-owned bank, whose group balance sheet last year totalled DM28 bil-

lion, survived the Nazi era in Germany by changing its name to the genteel Pflemdingensweiler, leaving the shareholders unchanged and abroad.

In spite of the options loss, the bank expects to achieve a satisfactory result for the whole of 1995, the spokesman said.

He noted that even in 1994, when the bank was hit by losses on two celebrated German corporate failures, it managed to post a net profit of DM30 million.

Last year, which the bank describes as "unfortunate", it took a DM50 million hit on the

failure of Balsam, the leading German sports flooring group, and unspecified losses for its exposure to the collapse of the Schneider empire, Germany's biggest postwar property failure.

The spokesman said that the bank took immediate steps after discovery of the options loss to tighten up its administration and control arrangements. He added: "There is always room for improvement." The trader was asked to leave immediately. It is unclear whether legal action will follow.

Pennington, page 27

Ashanti misses gold target

ASHANTI Goldfields, Ghana's largest biggest miner of gold, fell marginally short of its planned target of producing a million ounces of gold in the year ended September 30 (Colin Campbell writes).

Total gold production of 932,323 ounces was 13 per cent higher than output in 1994, and the company remains confident that it will shortly achieve an annual production rate of a million ounces.

The company, whose shares are listed in London, issued a fourth quarterly production report that showed underground reserves had further increased to 1.7 million ounces and that expansion at the Obuasi mine continues apace.

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Denmark Kr	8.48	8.48
Finland Mk	7.29	6.64
France Fr	8.11	7.46
Germany Dm	2.28	2.17
Greece Dr	361.00	356.00
Hong Kong \$	12.82	11.82
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lit	2615.00	2480.00
Japan Yen	164.50	158.50
Malta	0.394	0.338
Netherlands Gld	2.850	2.430
New Zealand \$	2.33	2.31
Norway Kr	10.43	9.83
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.30
S Africa R	14.42	14.42
Spain Pta	200.00	187.00
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Turkey Lira	refor	76145.0
USA \$	1.672	1.642

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bic

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lottery blamed for Vernons job cuts

VERNONS, the football pools company, is to axe a further 150 jobs because of competition from the National Lottery. The company's N&B Direct printing works at Speke, Merseyside, which prints pools coupons and betting slips, is to close with the loss of 75 jobs. A further 75 jobs will be cut from the Vernons pools office at Aintree, Liverpool, where the pools entries are processed and coupons checked. The announcement brings the total number of jobs lost by Vernons this year to 200 and reduces the workforce to 425.

Phil Jarrold, managing director of Vernons Pools, said: "I am bitterly disappointed that these new redundancies and the closure of N&B Direct have been made inevitable by the impact of the lottery. If we are to safeguard sustainable jobs at Vernons, then we have to reduce our costs, protect prizes and maintain marketing and product development initiatives." Vernons said the job losses had been forced on it by a 24.5 per cent year-on-year fall in turnover by the end of August.

Hang Seng tops league

MIDLAND BANK's sister company, the Hang Seng Bank in Hong Kong, heads the world league of "real banking profitability" issued by IBCA, the rating agency, for the second year. Lloyds has beaten Midland's parent, HSBC Holdings, to become the highest-ranking British bank, in 22nd place, up from 35th last year. The tables, based on 1994 profitability of the world's 300 largest banks, by assets, adjust reported return on equity ratios for differences in capitalisation, inflation and tax. TSB is 30th, and HSBC 31st.

Sphere plea to Panel

THE Takeover Panel must act to avert aggressive bids for split-level investment trusts at their winding-up date, a senior City figure said yesterday. David Donne, the outgoing chairman of Sphere, now officially wound up, said the £170 million trust had "totally wasted" an extra £250,000 of shareholders' money to fight off what he described as "an aggressive and unnecessary counterbid from Gartmore". Guinness Flight was chosen to launch an Extra Income Investment Trust for Sphere investors. City Diary, page 29

Tamaris advances

TAMARIS, the nursing homes operator, has plans for further acquisitions. It is in talks to add to its existing 700 beds, bringing the total to about 1,000 by the year-end. Pre-tax profits rose to £610,000 in the six months to September 30, against £118,000 last time. Turnover rose to £4.36 million (£1.88 million). Profits were boosted by a £229,000 exceptional gain on the sale of a nursing home. Tamaris is recommending an interim dividend of 0.021375p (nil), payable on December 5, from earnings of 0.14p (0.05p) a share.

Crest date announced

CREST, the electronic share settlement system that is due to replace the Stock Exchange's existing Talisman system, will go live on July 15. The transition from Talisman to Crest, which is being developed under the aegis of the Bank of England, will begin on July 22, with the first settlement in Crest due to take place on August 19. Iain Saville, chief executive of CrestCo, the company set up to run the settlement system, said: "The project remains, as it always has been, on time and on budget."

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TTB3

EQUITAS

Out of the frying pan?

Lloyd's is required to pass two solvency tests. In the first, which applies to all UK insurers, Lloyd's exceeded the minimum requirement by a factor of 3.9 last August. This makes Lloyd's one of Britain's best reserved insurers. The second test only applies to Lloyd's, and requires the Society's own reserves to exceed its individual solvency deficits in total.

If 1992 and prior open years are closed into Equitas, all the "insolvent" Names will be in Equitas, rather than in Lloyd's and won't be in the second test. Although this neatly fixes Lloyd's solvency problem, it could increase the risk run by Names. Their own fortunes will then be determined mainly by the future of Equitas, rather than that of Lloyd's.

An insurance company is owned by whoever supplies its solvency margin. If Equitas were to have external ownership then asset stripping could easily occur. Just suppose that the solvency margin was provided by a consortium of external insurance companies with similar asbestos and pollution problems to Lloyd's. While those companies remained solvent it would be quite legitimate for them to take unsecured loans from Equitas.

However, while Equitas will have 17 years worth of reserves, external insurance companies have, at the most, only half that amount. Thus, if any of these companies became insolvent, Equitas could lose the value of some loans from its reserves. If, as a result of this, Equitas also failed then the Names would have unlimited liability with respect to any deficit. No law would have been broken, and the Names would have no redress.

So, once the Names are out of Lloyd's and into Equitas they will have even more to worry about than ever before. However, Lloyd's itself will, conveniently, have no further interest in the matter. As Equitas, on average, will hold reserves of around £0.5 million per Name, there are only three acceptable owners: the Names, Lloyd's and the Bank of England. Alternatively, if Equitas didn't meet the solvency margin, it could safely start in solvent run-off under aegis of the DTL.

If Names are forced to reinsure adequately funded syndicate liabilities and Equitas fails, they will effectively have had to pay their residual liabilities twice over. However, if Equitas were to be divided into separate companies for each class of business, then the original liability distributions would be maintained (Section 40), even if some of these companies became insolvent.

Equitas can save money for Names, but only if it is properly structured with reserves (Names' PTFs) that are 100% secured. Defend your assets, vote WEST, for a safer, safer Society!

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□ Names land significant victory □ City ponders Body Shop buyback □ Buy America policy sells Britain short

Auditors caught in Lloyd's net

AS ANY keen fisherman knows, there is no pleasure quite like that of catching a plump fish after it has put up a good fight. But what no angler expects is for that fish, once landed, to get up, smooth down its scales and say rather haughtily: "You lost."

Ernst & Young has been well and truly landed. It fought hard, but yesterday it lost. The High Court ruling was clear: names won their claim for wrongful closure of the 1983, 1984 and 1985 years of account for Merrett syndicate 418.

How much money they will receive has yet to be decided, and the process of reaching a final sum could take months. But while 78 names lost their claim, there were 1,243 who won. In what looks like a desperate attempt to save face, the accountants' immediate response trumped "Lloyd's names thwarted by Merrett judgment" and promised an appeal that would be extremely unlikely to fail. But 1,243 points to 78 looks like a victory nonetheless.

The importance of the ruling, the first against a firm of accountants in relation to Lloyd's, goes further than just the Merrett action. Although Merrett's case was not typical of other "long-tail" cases in the

pipeline, it does provide a significant precedent. If Ernst & Young had managed to wriggle off the hook, the chances would have been slim for the other long-tail action groups.

The success of the Merrett names means that the latter's prospects are still alive, but by no means certain. Perhaps more important is the bearing that the case has on Lloyd's of London's attempts to end the mass of legal actions against any number of different parties.

Lloyd's is offering £2.8 billion to the names as compensation for losses of more than £8 billion. This appeals to many of those parties being pursued because, in return, the names have to agree to forgo their right to legal action.

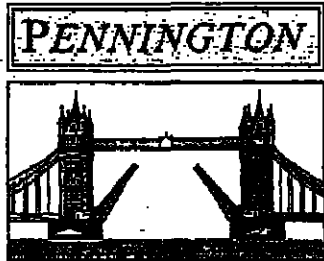
Until yesterday, the accountants had no need to join the party. With no legal ruling against them, what was the benefit to them in helping out? But the profession has slowly been reeled in, and the argument now for remaining aloof from

the negotiations is severely weakened. Many names are turning hungrily to the accountants, with their deep pockets, as sources of compensation. The list of action groups taking and planning legal actions is growing. And while some of these actions resemble fishing with grenades in a barrel, others are highly sophisticated and well mapped out expeditions.

The consequence is clear. Unless the auditors come to the negotiating table, there is precious little chance that they will be left to drift lazily along the bottom of the river. Instead, the legal harpoons will come out.

Not the ideals situation

ANITA and Gordon Roddick would never have put quite so much parsley soap in middle-class bathrooms without those City dinosaurs they profess to loathe. A stock market quote brought both finance for expan-



sion and what every successful retailer needs these days, a high media profile.

So wide is the communication gap between the Roddicks and the City that, by yesterday evening, fund managers who own the company were still no wiser about whether they planned to take it private. The plan clearly existed once but its current status, after talks with bankers, is doubtful. The City is disenchanted with Body Shop, and in particular with the messianic plans of the Roddicks to drive further into the US where their monopoly on "feel-good" ethical toiletries is under threat

from own-label competition from their bigger high street competitors.

These concerns, it seems, are shared by the banks whom the management wished to substitute for those despised fund managers. The temptation is to write off Body Shop as one of those companies, like Virgin or Amstrad, that should never have gone public in the first case.

But the mismatch between the Roddicks and the City is more of a philosophical one than, as with Richard Branson or Alan Sugar, merely a fierce resentment that the market did not sufficiently value their worth.

Ms Roddick's statements, even those that bear reproduction in a family newspaper, should be taken with a pinch of low-iodine salt. But she clearly is less interested in profit than in running a socially responsible, environment-friendly business. While this may find favour with many, including her customers, it is anathema to the City. The only way this philosophy could

survive in that environment is for Body Shop to cease expansion and jack up dividends, a future as unacceptable to the Roddicks as a dash for profits. Their only option is to go back to the bankers and try again.

David versus Uncle Sam

UNFAIR American competition has already driven British industry out of two key technologies, laser ring-giros and image intensifiers. Now our own Ministry of Defence is colluding to see that Britain's supercomputers go the same way.

This is not a jingoistic argument about protecting incompetent, winning industrialists. Meiko is a valiant David which has successfully taken on American industry Goliaths, including Cray and IBM. But the Bristol company is having to shift production and work to the US. The reason is the Buy American Act, which prevents public bod-

ies in the US from buying computers not designed and built in the US. This gives the Americans a protected home market from which they can undercut almost any rival overseas.

So why is the British public sector, whose seal of approval is essential for success here, favouring established American suppliers over their indigenous rivals? Such short-sighted "low-risk" purchasing policies merely prevent the emergence of effective competition which would both stimulate innovation and force down prices. The British Government is British industry's biggest customer. Why does it not use its purchasing power more wisely, Mr Heseltine?

Schadenfreude

IMAGINE if Robin Leigh-Pemberton, after his stint at the Bank, were to see a well-deserved semi-retirement in charge of Courts ruined by the admission of £10 million of rogue trading losses. The chagrin for Karl Otto Pöhl, still widely respected in Germany as the engineer of reunification, is no less. For boom-and-bust chancellors like Nigel Lawson, however, the proper word must be Schadenfreude.

Pilkington seeks £303m to fund acquisitions

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

PILKINGTON, the world's largest glassmaker, is raising £303 million through a rights issue to fund two acquisitions and to finance investment in emerging markets.

The company, which is struggling to push down debt, launched the large rights issue to buy out a joint partner in an Italian business and to purchase a group based in Switzerland and Scandinavia. Pilkington will also use the cash to pump £40 million into Latin America over the next three years, boosting capacity in Eastern Europe, and is planning further investment in China.

Shareholders are being asked for the money in a one-

for-four issue priced at 155p. Yesterday, the shares closed at 189p, up 7p on the day.

Roger Leverton, chief executive, said: "We are looking to reduce our debt - that is a priority. So we are asking for the support of shareholders in these acquisitions. The opportunities are too good to miss but we need to raise the money."

Pilkington has set itself a long-term goal of 30 per cent gearing and a nearer-term target of 40 per cent. At the end of September, gearing was 59 per cent, seven percentage points down from the same period last year.

The company bought the outstanding half of SIV, the

Italian glass business which supplies the windscreen market, for £120 million, and took on net debt of £68 million.

It also paid £55 million for Interplane, the flat glass processing and distribution units in Switzerland, Norway and Denmark, and acquired £17 million debt in the deal.

As concern grows that the glass cycle in Europe has peaked, Pilkington reported that its margin had improved two percentage points to 8 per cent, the level of its overall margin.

A boost came from a strong performance in European building products. But the company agreed that there was still room for improve-

ment and that it was keen to see margins back in double figures.

Mr Leverton said it was unlikely that the company could impose further price rises, but that those already pushed through would hold.

Overall, Pilkington pushed up turnover 6 per cent of that coming from price rises. Cost-cutting throughout its businesses helped the pre-tax profit line to show a more impressive rise of 70 per cent, to £104 million.

The interim dividend, payable on February 16, was lifted from 1.5p to 1.75p.

Tempus, page 28

Warning from Life Sciences

SHARES in Life Sciences International, the healthcare company, fell 30 per cent yesterday after it issued its second profit warning this year (Alasdair Murray writes).

The company said that poor market conditions, expected to last at least until the end of the year, would significantly hit profits. This follows a warning in July and a subsequent 20 per cent fall in half-year profits to £10.6 million, from £13.2 million, in 1994.

The market reacted by slashing Life Science's share price from 122p to 86p at the close.

The company also admitted that it was making a \$3m provision to cover a lawsuit against Shandon, its American subsidiary.

Tempus, page 28

Le Creuset chief to take group private

By PHILIP FANGALOS

PAUL van Zuydam, chairman of Le Creuset, the French-based London-listed company best known for its cast-iron cookware, has accompanied announcement of a slide in first-half profits with unveiling plans to take the group back into private ownership.

Mr van Zuydam, who has a 73.7 per cent shareholding in Le Creuset, said that the board felt that the company has enjoyed no real benefit from its quotation on the Unlisted Securities Market since flotation in 1989. Mr van Zuydam intends to make a cash offer to minority shareholders at a premium to the current market price, and is discussing funding with a consortium of lenders. Full proposals will be put to shareholders by the end of December. Le Creuset

shares jumped 18p, to 177p, on the news.

A provision-driven slump in pre-tax profits cut them to £117,000 in the half to June 30, from £107 million last time, in spite of sales rising by 6.5 per cent, to £22.7 million. The fall in profits was largely because of a £744,000 exceptional charge relating to forward currency cover costs for a "substantial proposed acquisition" that proved unsuccessful.

Mr van Zuydam said that the group's cost of sales was adversely affected in the first half by the US dollar and sterling declining further against the French franc.

Earnings per share collapsed to 0.4p (5p). There is again no interim dividend.

Buy-back bother, page 29

MEPC goes shopping in America

MEPC, the property group, is expanding its American shopping centre portfolio with an £84 million agreed bid for North American Property Unit Trust (Carl Morrishead writes).

The takeover is part of a strategy shift involving the planned sale of MEPC's £170 million Continental European portfolio and reinvestment in the US and Australia. The strategy could lead to flotation of MEPC's American assets.

MEPC shares rose 13p to 376p as property analysts welcomed the deal, which will lift the value of the American portfolio to over \$1 billion.

James Tuckey, MEPC's chief executive, said that, in the long term, the American shopping malls could form the basis of a separately quoted vehicle or a US-style real estate investment trust.



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amount of damage to a passenger safety cell ever recorded. Just as impressive, was the level of injury measured by the crash test dummies.

This was also significantly lower than any previous figure.

The new E-class also has the first safety belt system developed to work specifically with an airbag.

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intensive. In particular, the dashboard, the steering wheel rim, the roof rail, the door trim.

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Of course, the usefulness of all our new safety features is something

we hope you'll never actually see. The new Mercedes E-class is, on the other hand, something we hope you do see at the earliest opportunity.

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Buyback companies rise on pre-Budget scare

COMPANIES contemplating share buyback plans were being urged not to delay and complete their transactions before Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, delivers his Budget speech on November 28.

Whispers circulating within the Square Mile yesterday suggested that anyone contemplating such a move after that date may find themselves having to deal with a tax burden they had not expected.

It is unlikely that the taxman has broken with tradition and acted generously by tipping everyone off. It is also unlikely that the Chancellor has given them a sporting chance by deciding to divulge the contents of his speech. So the prospect of something nasty emerging for UK plc in the Budget was being dismissed in most of City's watering holes last night.

Nevertheless, it provided an excuse to chase some of the buyback candidates higher in the hope that they may push forward any plans they are considering to reward shareholders.

Reuters led the way with a rise of 12p to 588p, closely followed by Great Universal Stores, 11p to 57p, National Westminster Bank, 11p to 632p and Boots, 5p to 560p.

The rest of the equity market was busily capitalising on the overnight strength of Wall Street and another strong showing by the Dow Jones average in early trading last night, which saw it climb more than 40 points.

The FT-SE 100 index finished 19.1 points higher at 3,529.1, with investors clinging to even the faintest of hopes that today's monthly meeting between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England will provide a cut in base rates. But turnover levels remained thin, with just 506 million shares changing hands.

Cordiant, the old Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency, firmed 2p to 80p ahead of the much publicised £100 million-plus rights issue. Speculation has it that terms of two-for-three at 100p were originally envisaged. This subsequently gave way to talk of a seven-for-eight at 78p; the latest theory is a one-for-one at 60p.

Body Shop jumped 30p to 155p after confirming that founders Gordon and Anita Roddick have had preliminary talks with the rest of the board about buying up the shares



Roger Leverton, left and Nigel Rudd of Pilkington Glass

and taking the company private again. The Roddicks already own 24 per cent of the company and are said to have received the backing of Ian McGlinch, the garage owner who first backed them to the tune of £4,000 and still owns almost 30 per cent. Dealers say the Roddicks may be prepared to offer up to 200p a share. The

last year plunged from £1.1 million to £170,000.

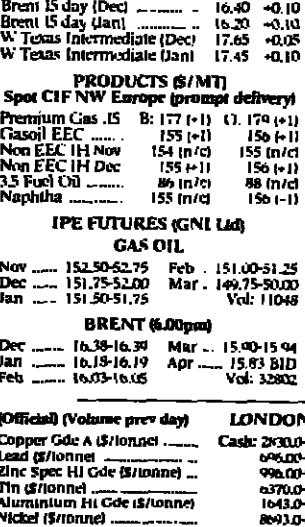
News of a cash raising exercise firmed Pilkington, Britain's biggest glassmaker, 7p to 189p. The group plans to generate £303 million by way of a rights issue on the basis of one-for-four at 155p. The proceeds will go towards funding two major investments and strengthening its

A profits downgrading left Sears, the Selfridges store and Freemans mail order group, 1p down at 101p. James Capel, the broker, has cut its estimate for the current year by £15 million, to £120 million, and for next year from £150 million to £140 million. More than 8 million shares were traded.

market seems certain to demand more. Another company planning to go private is Le Creuset, the cast iron cookware group. Its shares jumped 15p to 177p after Paul van Zuydam, chairman, announced he was planning to make a cash offer to shareholders at a premium to the current market price. He currently owns 73.7 per cent of the equity. Interim pre-tax profits

car windscreen operation. Nigel Rudd, chairman, described growth in Pilkington's main markets as modest and said much needed to be done to improve efficiency and reduce costs. In the first six months of the year pre-tax profits grew from £61 million to £104 million. London Electricity was an early casualty, dipping 10p to 901p after Thames Water

shares fell as bid talk is denied. The FT all-share price index (rebased) and the share price are shown in the graph below.



Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct

Source: DATASTREAM

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

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FT all-share price index (rebased)

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FT all-share price index (rebased)

Share price

FT all-share price index (rebased)

dashed recent speculation that it intended to make a bid. Thames said that current talks were to consider the benefits of shared services.

The announcement coincided with interim figures from Thames showing pre-tax profits 10 per cent ahead at £165 million. The shares responded with a rise of 6p to 527p.

The failure of the Sports Council to decide the site for the new national stadium, left shares of Wembley 7p lower at 337p. The shortlist has been whittled down to just two contestants, Wembley and Manchester, and a final decision could take between three and six months.

A profits warning left Life Sciences International, the healthcare group, nursing a fall of 35p at 87p. During the first half pre-tax profits fell 16 per cent and a similar performance is expected during the second six months.

There was heavy turnover in Black & Edgington as almost 14 million shares were traded. The price closed 1p better at 61p.

Shares in International Greetings, which supplies private label greetings to major multiple retailers, made a sparkling debut on the Alternative Investment Market. It ended at 543p, compared with a placing price of 450p.

GILT EDGED: Stronger overseas bond markets paved the way for an encouraging performance in London, where prices were squeezed higher in thin trading. The best gains were seen at the longer end where prices rose more than 1½ in places.

The market shrugged off the latest Purchasing Managers Index, which fell short of expectations, with most experts instead choosing to focus on Friday's non-farm payroll numbers.

In the futures pit, the December series of the Long Gilt climbed 2½½ to end at £106 13/16 as a total of 45,000 contracts were completed.

In the cash market, Treasury 8 1/2 per cent 2013 jumped £2 1/2 to 98 1/2½, while at the shorter end the rises were less impressive with Treasury 8 1/2 per cent 2000 £4 firmed at 102 1/2½.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street extended their gain in vigorous morning trading, following Monday's rally. At midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 37.93 points at 7,994.50.

Closing Prices Page 30

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

Dow Jones 7,994.50 (+37.93)

S&P Composite 586.20 (+2.08)

Tokyo:

Nikkei Average 17,854.04 (+145.47)

Hong Kong:

Hang Seng 7,882.39 (+110.00)

Amsterdam:

EOE Index 453.56 (+5.63)

Sydney:

AO 207.37 (+6.2)

Frankfurt:

DAX 2167.91 (+21.80)

Singapore:

SEAC 2107.38 (+7.22)

Brussels:

General 7764.19 (+16.18)

Paris:

CAC 40 1814.01 (+18.65)

Zurich:

SKA Gen 693.10 (+5.70)

London:

FT 100 3,529.1 (+19.1)

FTSE Mid 250 3,094.3 (+11.8)

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MAJOR CHANGES

RIBES:

Body, Shco 156p (-21p)

Unipalm 508p (-34p)

Northamber 251p (-20p)

Ranger 263p (-28p)

Jeff Smurfit 174p (-5p)

P & P 125p (-6p)

Ferguson Int 254p (-5p)

Pilkington 189p (-7c)

Quality Care 271p (-10p)

MEPC 276p (-15p)

Sothecys 890p (-30p)

Scotia 650p (-20p)

Ramco Energy 368p (-10p)

Thomson Corp 815p (-20p)

Reuters 588p (-12p)

FALLS:

Kalon 113p (-7p)

Micro Focus 574p (-25p)

Sage Group 233p (-10p)

Govett 233p (-10p)

Blick 495p (-20p)

A Cohen 645p (-10p)

Morland 520p (-8p)

Norban 480p (-7p)

Wembley 337p (-7p)

Closing Prices Page 30

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):

سكرا من الامم

THE TIMES



CITY DIARY

Final innings for BAT's man

SIR Patrick Sheehy, the ebullient chairman of BATs, is honoured indeed. On November 13, two weeks before Budget Day, Sir Patrick is invited to 11 Downing Street, where Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, will host a reception in his honour.

Lest anybody cry "foul" in the belief that the tobacco chairman has an unfair chance to lobby on behalf of the highly taxed industry, this is purely a social occasion.

Sir Patrick retires as BATs chairman at the end of December, and the Chancellor is taking the opportunity to acknowledge his public service down the years, which includes the 1993 Sheehy Report about police pay, and extensive sponsorship by BATs of the Macmillan College, Middlesbrough, one of the first inner-city technology colleges.

Paperweight

HANG your head in sorrow for the trees that made up the five tonnes of documents in the winding up of Sphere. The sterling split-level investment trust was formally wound up yesterday but not before a battle between Guinness Flight and Garmore for the right to manage the money left over. In the event, poor shareholders were so bemused that they withdrew £144 million in cash to leave just £25.8 million to roll over into the new Guinness Flight trust.

"First time I've seen an auditor mentioned"

A mean business

THE Working Women Mean Business Awards at the Hyde Park Hotel yesterday was an interesting affair. The awards, sponsored by *Options* magazine and *Mercury*, are into their 12th year, but the fighting talk was not all positive, as guests were given the opportunity to prove their confidence and determination right there and then. Why, they bayed, were VIPs that included Janet Street-Porter, Anthea Turner and Richard Branson, in a separate reception room? Were the VIPs too important to mix with the other guests? When the speeches turned to the topics of "glass ceilings" and "breaking down barriers", some of the outcast were not impressed.

Law courting

TOP City law firms are playing it cool over the invasion of US law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges, in spite of some of their best lawyers being targeted by the firm's recruitment drive. The invader, which enjoys per partner profits of up to \$750,000 in the US, plans a base of 20 UK lawyers to compete with City law firms for top clients in banking and capital markets, according to yesterday's edition of *The Lawyer*. Clifford Chance recently saw Martin Hughes resign to join another former partner, Maurice Allen, in Weil Gotshal's new office. Geoffrey Howe, Clifford Chance managing partner, is sanguine. "We have 40 lawyers in New York at the moment and 500 finance lawyers in London so we can't get too excited," he said.

COLIN CAMPBELL

When public companies lead to private grief

Alasdair Murray looks at the chequered history of bids to buy back quoted firms

Shareholders can be forgiven if their first reaction on hearing that a quoted company is going private is to check their wallets. There is always the suspicion that the directors proposing the move know something the ordinary shareholders do not.

Most of the high profile attempts to go private in recent years have been led by powerful entrepreneurs, often the founders and major shareholders of the business, men such as Alan Sugar at Amstrad, Richard Branson at Virgin and Andrew Lloyd Webber at the Really Useful Group.

The ordinary shareholders are supposed to have the protection of the non-executive directors, who have a duty to guarantee a good price, but the experience in recent years suggests they are not always up to their job — and in the case of the Sugar takeover there were non-executives on the board at the time.

But as the Roddicks are finding with their plans for the Body Shop, having an inside advantage does not necessarily guarantee success. Even if you can persuade the non-executive directors of the virtues of your plans, there is the little matter of overcoming shareholder opposition, especially from the institutions, and persuading the banks or venture capitalists that they should take all of the risk and not split it with the markets.

Unless you are prepared to offer a very good price, or a very good reason, the recent history of attempts to go private suggests that they may fail.

This spring, Conrad Black suffered defeat over his plans to take The Telegraph newspaper group private.

Black's undoing was his uneasy relationship with the City and investors. His share placement in 1994 had outraged many in the City because it was so quickly followed by Black's entry into the newspaper price war, which saw Telegraph share prices plummet below the offer figure of 387p.

At the time of Black's buy-back offer they were still hovering around 430p but despite Black's offer price of 470p, many investors were not



Personal preference: Gordon and Anita Roddick, top, with centre, from left, Richard Branson, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Conrad Black, and Amstrad's Alan Sugar, bottom

persuaded that this was anything like their real value, should there be a truce in the price war.

Black was not helped by having established a team of non-executive directors made up entirely of the great and good, including figures such as Lord King of Warrnaby, Lord Carrington and Sir Evelyn de Rothschild. The board offered credibility to Black's company but also played its role on behalf of the shareholders and decided that 510p was closer to the real value and declined Black's offer.

Some shareholders, particularly those who bought at the flotation price of 325p, felt the board had been too demanding, and The Telegraph's share price is yet to recover.

Similarly, Alan Sugar was defeated in his attempt to take the electronics firm Amstrad private in December 1992, because shareholders felt that the 30p offer price was insufficient. Sugar, famous for his abrasive manner, had not helped his cause by expressing his contempt for the demands of both the City and the active small shareholders. After the

defeat at an extraordinary meeting, Sugar memorably called the series of small shareholders who had spoken out against the offer, "Karaoke shareholders, keen to hear their own voice".

Not all attempts to go private have foundered on mutual mistrust and lack of funding. Some businessmen have managed to use their popular status to push through their plans. Richard Branson, a genius at public relations, took Virgin private in 1988 just two uncomfortable years after he had floated the company. Branson justified

the move on two counts, pointing to the disappointing share price his company held, which had never climbed back to the flotation price of 140p and criticising the City for short-termism.

Branson felt that the City misunderstood the high risk/high investment business he was involved in. Noticeably, he had never taken the airline side of his holdings public, after it was given a negative value on his provisional balance sheet. Justified by a healthy £11 million profit from this arm in 1987, Branson decided the rest of his business interests should follow suit.

Branson also made public play of the fact that he was embarrassed by Virgin staff and friends, including pop stars such as Phil Collins and Mike Oldfield, who had subscribed to Virgin in good faith but had seen the value of their holdings fall. To make amends, Branson bought the shares back at the original offer price of 140p and continued with his expansionist aims.

Andrew Lloyd Webber also decided to go private because he felt he had lost control of the direction of the company. But Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group is an unusual case because it had no physical assets to speak of and was almost entirely dependent on the output of one man — Lloyd Webber himself.

Lloyd Webber realised that if he did not want to write the company would lose all value. So, when Lloyd Webber decided he had had enough of being a hugely successful popular musical writer and decided to try to develop his serious classical side, he felt that the only fair solution was to take the company private, paying off the shareholders.

Lloyd Webber was in a strong position to do this, because if the decision went against him he could simply threaten to not work and force the share price down. Establishing a true value to the company was always going to be an inexact science and there has been criticism of the non-executive directors Lord Gower and Melvyn Bragg for missing the true value of the musical publishing wing of the business. But Lloyd Webber's offer of 232p, double the flotation price, generally satisfied the shareholders.

Taking a company private is laden with pitfalls, but the lesson for the Roddicks is clear. If you have the status and come up with the price, shareholders and the banks will support you.

How Japan has sabotaged monetarists' calculations



The announcement last Friday of the third-quarter bounce in US GDP, with growth up to an annual rate of 4.2 per cent in that quarter, threw the US bond market into temporary shock. It was not that the rate was seen as dangerous — that would need two or three quarters of fast growth — but that it was totally unexpected.

The bond market is getting used to these surprises, because dealers watch money supply growth to forecast activity, inflation, and Fed policy. In 1995 this once reliable compass appears to be broken. The numbers say that growth is restrained and policy tight, but the real economy tells a totally different story.

Consider these figures. In the past year, M1, the standard narrow definition, has not grown, but fallen by 1.3 per cent, and that fall has been accelerated to a 3 per cent rate in the past three months. That would normally suggest that the economy is going into recession. The broader measures are less alarming: M2 has grown by 4 per cent, and the broader M3 by 5.7 per cent. However, this faster growth has appeared only in the second half of the year, and this would suggest a recovery not now, but some time in 1996.

Meanwhile, Federal Reserve credit, the basis for money creation, has grown only 4.3 per cent, and actually shrunk at a 3 per cent rate in the past three months.

The figures, in a word, say that money is tight, and as a result of Fed policy. The rising dollar tells the same story. However, the real economy is strong, and the financial markets seem to belong to a different world. A simple measure of monetary tightness is the amount that sound borrowers have to pay above the wholesale cost of funds. A year ago, this spread — three-month commercial paper over federal funds — stood at 85 basis points; last week, the spread was down to 12 points. This is not a tight market, but a market flooded with money — the sort of excess that encourages silly banking.

Indeed, the vanishing commercial paper spread is a reminder of the late 1980s; then, the banks were so widely distrusted as a result of reckless lending that paper-grade corporations could borrow more cheaply than the banks themselves. The reappearance of a 60-point risk premium on euro-dollar deposits over T-bill futures is another symptom

of lenders' risk aversion, and not without reason. Every day, it seems, BBB-rated borrowers get credit lines on terms that used to be reserved for triple A. Real estate and sovereign lending — the big traps of the 1980s — are also rising again. Meanwhile, consumer credit delinquency in the US is rising steeply, even as incomes and employment improve. Lax credit control again, surely.

How can a market that is statistically tight show every sign of getting drunk on over-plentiful money? None of the usual monetary aggregates give a clue, but one unusual one looks telling. Foreign central banks' holdings of US Treasury securities — central bank credit outside the Federal reserve system — are now bigger in total than the whole US domestic monetary base, and they have been growing like gangbusters. They are up by 20.7 per cent (or \$80 billion, in round numbers) in the last year, a growth rate that has not faltered at any point. This would support much faster monetary growth, but the dollars created are drained out through the US trade deficit almost as fast as the banks can lend them.

So we have it: the official finance for a vigorous US recovery has been created not in Washington, where the monetarists would have spotted it, but in Tokyo, a side effect of the drive to devalue the yen. The shape of the recovery also shows that it is credit-driven: in the first half of the year, growth was almost entirely dependent on the boom in business investment provoked by cheap loans.

Prosperity has now spread to housing and consumer spending, and Third World industries have taken up the capital spending baton from the US, to the benefit of US trade. And yen-financed reflation may soon spread to Europe, as the Bundesbank in turn becomes worried by an over-valued currency.

So is the Bank of Japan a good fairy, rescuing a deflated world? Or is it recklessly provoking the next world inflation, as it struggles to offset deflation at home? It is too early to say. What is clear is that those who base forecasts on money need to watch some relatively unfamiliar numbers — world reserves. Or perhaps that forgotten IMF yardstick, Domestic Credit Expansion, or DCE — the acronym that turned Denis Healey into a proto-monetarist.

Philip Bassett on a job swap that heralds wide-ranging change

BAA overhaul far from a flight of fancy

Sir John Egan, BAA's chief executive, is being reduced to the ranks. Well, not exactly that far down; but just for today, the boss of the company that runs Britain's airports is taking part in an unusual job swap — changing places with the woman who manages Terminal 3 at Heathrow.

He will be taking the place of Christine Stewart, who normally has the task of managing the daily flow of 11.5 million people who pass through Terminal 3 every year using one of 48 airlines. Sir John is clear about the similarities for the new jobs, which will be running my job in much the same way as Christine is running Terminal 3.

All this, of course, is good PR but there is more to it than a neat photo-opportunity. What lies behind it is a significant change in the way BAA is going to be managed.

Since April, Christine Stewart has been involved in running a programme called Freedom to Manage, which aims to remove from the company's employees at every level much of the unnecessary burden of management which irritates employees and, more importantly, customers: the practice of most organisations never to take a decision without first referring it upwards. There are perfectly good reasons why this happens, of course. Organisations do not want people to make mistakes, and in their turn, people do not much want to be blamed for mistakes.

The many forms of empowerment theory that now dominate the thinking of many gurus want to push decision-making back down to where, they say, it is needed — at the point where organisations make their products, or meet their customers. But there is often a big gap between the



High-flyer: Christine Stewart will be chief executive for a day

business schools' seminar rooms and the way companies actually operate. What BAA decided to do last year was to try to bridge that gap with the Freedom to Manage programme. Take, for instance, airport security. People passing through security scanners who are found carrying knives are stopped. BAA rules say that the operator working the scanner has to call over a supervisor for a decision on whether the knife should be confiscated.

Now, under T3's Freedom to Manage programme, the operator simply measures the knife against a scale. If it is below a certain length, and if the passenger's security "profile" — a rough-and-ready assessment of each passenger made by security staff — is OK, the passenger is waved through, without the need for

have nowhere else to go for their service.

Pointing out that more than half of BAA's revenue comes from retailing and similar activities at its airports, where competition is ferocious and customer choice is wide, he says that BAA aims for improvement all the time.

Today's job swap is designed as the start of the process of spreading the new management method out across the company. At a final meeting for it yesterday in Sir John's sixth-floor office in BAA's corporate headquarters close to London's Victoria station, he and Ms Stewart went through their plans.

She will take a management team meeting, looking at, amongst other things, BAA's interim results, due out in the middle of next month, followed after lunch by a series of close examinations of how the programme she has piloted will work across the company.

For his part, Sir John will leave his office, and head out to Heathrow, where his first task will be a meeting with airport security staff, aiming to convince them that empowerment does not mean their having to take responsibility for things they are not paid for, before a series of meetings, including a lunch with Bob Taylor, general manager of American Airlines and chairman of the airlines' co-ordinating body at T3.

He denies that a show will be put on for his benefit. "I want to see if this is going to work in practice," he says. "There will be problems. But if everything looks tickety-boo, I know it's bull."

Most political and business leaders believe it is vital for Britain's economic and industrial competitiveness that companies now aim for Japanese-style programmes of

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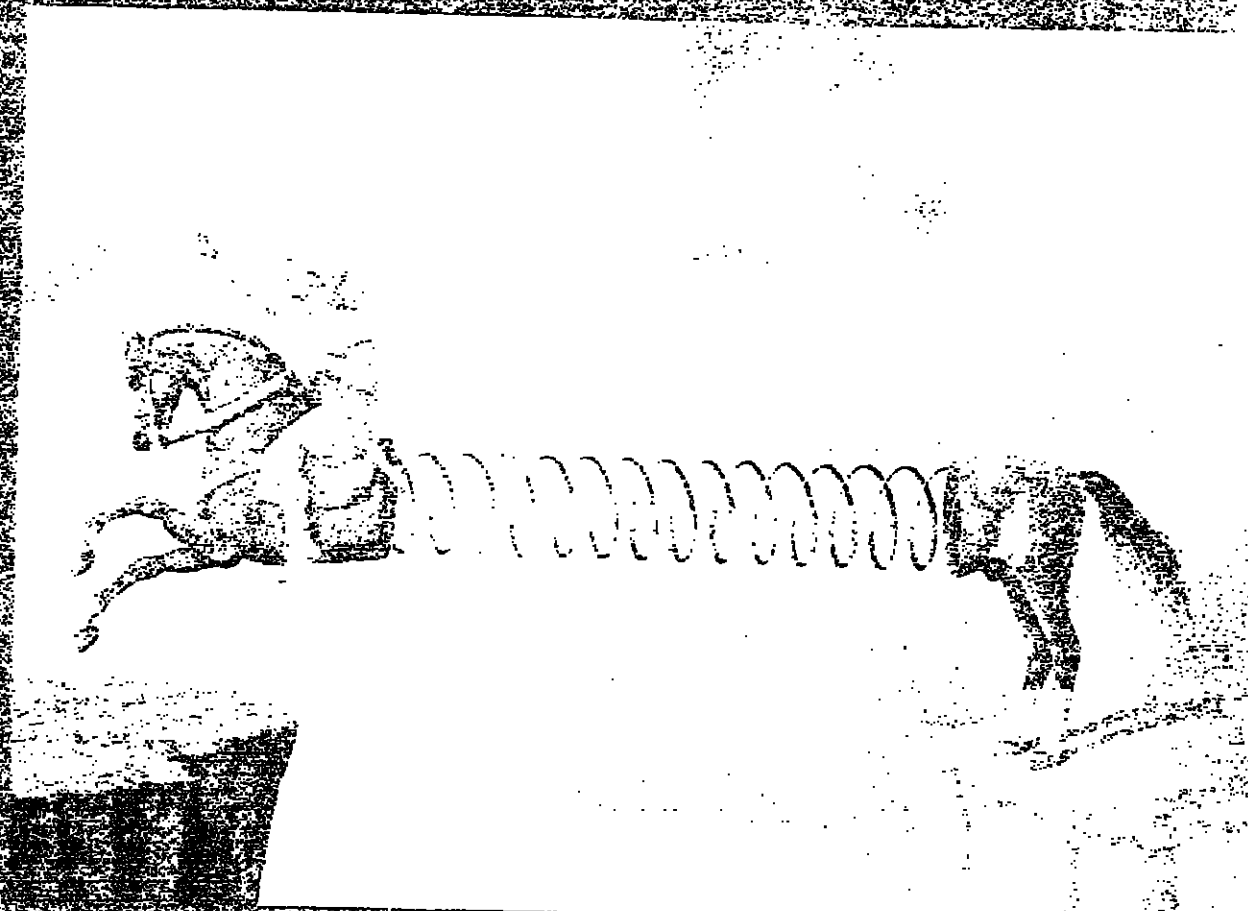
Shares end near their best

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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POP

Mick vows to keep on rolling right into the brave new world of interactive technology



VISUAL ART

Marks of real distinction: the painter Fiona Rae displays her prodigious talent in a new show

THE TIMES ARTS

TELEVISION

From Turkey to Tokyo, Spitting Image's latex monsters now set the standards for satire

TOMORROW

In the week of French Kiss, Jade and Farinelli, read Geoff Brown on the big new movies

Mick Jagger tells David Sinclair how keeping up with technology has kept the Rolling Stones ahead

It's rock'n'Rom, and he likes it

There's an old saying which goes: "It's a great life as long as you don't weaken." Mick Jagger is the personification of that hard wisdom. There he sits, an impossibly lean and robust 52-year-old, still at the peak of his precarious profession, in control of his destiny and still, apparently, having the time of his life. His hair is suspiciously dark, but still thick and lustrous, his vision 20/20, and the deep grooves on his face follow laughter and not worry lines. His macho, pseudo-cockney way of talking is tempered by a guifaw which he deploys, to great effect, when it suits him.

His trick in conversation, as in life, is to keep on the move. Nothing is ever taken too seriously. Any avenue of thought that smacks of wasteful self-analysis or dwelling on the past is carefully sidestepped.

"Maybe all the problems we had in the early days made us strong," he ventures by way of a brisk (if rather unlikely) explanation for his group's extraordinary resilience. "It's a band that's had its ups and downs. And the *Voodoo Lounge* tour was a real up. So where do we go now?"

The answer, it seems, is into the brave new world of interactive computer technology. Jagger is here to hustle a new Rolling Stones album and CD-Rom. Both are steeped in history, but both explore the technical cutting edge. The album, *Stripped*, is a back-to-basics, recorded-as-live collection of songs from the less-exposed corners of the Stones back catalogue, from *Angie* and *Street Fighting Man* to obscure tracks such as *The Spider and the Fly*. Only one number (Robert Johnson's *Love In Vain*) has featured on any of the group's previous six live albums. Although priced the same as a normal CD, it comes in a new configuration known as CD-Plus, which grants the computer-owning listener access to various additional, interactive features, including lyrics, discographies, comments by the band and so forth.

The *Voodoo Lounge* CD-Rom, meanwhile, is a fully interactive computer game, available in PC and Macintosh formats, in which the user visits a number of rooms in a decadent, rock'n'roll palace of wonders populated by members of the Stones and their louche entourage. Incorporating film of the *Voodoo Lounge* tour, rare footage of blues legends such as Muddy Waters and Howlin' Wolf, new mixes of tracks from the *Voodoo Lounge* album and much else besides, it offers a dizzying and apparently inexhaustible supply of "click-on" experiences, everything from sitting in on an acoustic blues jam with Keith Richards and Ron Wood to overhearing a conversation between Jagger and backing singer Lisa Fisher in the cloakroom area.

"I just wanted to do something that was a fantasy and very much about



Mick Jagger: "I wanted to do something that doesn't really talk about what the Rolling Stones did 30 years ago"

now, and which doesn't really talk about what the Rolling Stones did 30 years ago," Jagger says. "I'm so bored with talking about that. It really is just entertainment, and I think everyone can have a good laugh with it."

Curiously, for a band with such dyed-in-the-wool musical roots, the Stones have always been at the forefront of new technological developments. They were one of the first rock acts to record a live album and to put out singles in 12-inch dance mixes. They are the only band ever to

be filmed on IMAX. The stage and lighting design of their stadium shows have always been state-of-the-art. They have pioneered groundbreaking video techniques, notably on last year's *Love Is Strong*, and on their new single, a version of Bob Dylan's classic, *Like a Rolling Stone*.

Yet it is not so much the sophisticated gadgetry as the sheer indestructibility of the Stones that still beggars belief. When they announced the *Voodoo Lounge* tour last year, the American press was sceptical. "They got hold of this 'Are they too old?' idea

and really rammed it hard. So it was quite difficult to sell out the shows at the beginning," Jagger says. "There was a lot of competition as well. Pink Floyd were out there, and the Eagles, who hadn't been out for donkey's years. But once we got started it built up momentum and gradually turned into this wonderful thing. Then Pink Floyd finished, which was good. And then the Eagles got sick."

Jagger roars with satisfied laughter at this recollection. Mention of R.E.M., who suffered a similar misfortune earlier this year, triggers

another boisterous display of *schadenfreude*. "The only show of ours that wasn't doing well in Europe was Lisbon. Then R.E.M. got sick and cancelled, and our show took off. It was brilliant."

Meanwhile, the Stones, a good 15 years older and hardly renowned for their healthy lifestyle, did not suffer a single postponement or cancellation on a 15-month itinerary which took them across five continents, and which is not finished yet. The band will reconvene in Bombay on February 26 for the Far Eastern leg of the *Voodoo Lounge* tour, with shows in Taiwan, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and possibly China.

It is one thing to outdistance and out-tough all competition, but many people would argue that the group's glory days are a long way behind them. The *Voodoo Lounge* album may have sold five million copies (the same number as *Steel Wheels* before it) but was it an especially good Stones album?

I think it could have been better," Jagger says. "It could have been more groundbreaking. I was worried that the producer [Don Was] and the engineer [Don Smith] were too retro-minded. I didn't want to make a techno album or anything, but it was a bit lacking on the production end. I think Don Was is great, but the trouble is that all these people are trying to recreate *Exile On Main St.* and it's just impossible to stop them. We've done *Exile On Main St.* I don't want to do it again, particularly. It wasn't that good to start with."

The Stones' last major hit single (and arguably their last *bona fide* classic) was *Start Me Up*, which was released in 1981. The song was recently leased as the soundtrack for the high-profile advert for Microsoft Windows 95, a deal that rumoured to be worth some \$6 million. Some commentators found this a bitter pill to swallow, notably Timothy White, editor-in-chief of the influential trade magazine *Billboard*, who took the group to task in an article headlined "Did Stones Sell Their Music Short?"

"Everyone thinks I'm the one who's interested in the business side of the Rolling Stones," Jagger says. "And so I am. But I'm actually the least comfortable in doing those kind of things. Everyone else in the group thinks it's great, especially Keith. He's gone completely in the direction of thinking these things are perfectly all right. It's a cutting edge product and it's only for a short run. In the end I don't think it did the band that much harm. It's not selling dog food."

Did he read White's article? "No, I wish I had. I'd have sent it to Keith."

● *Stripped* (album CD-Plus) and *Voodoo Lounge* (CD-Rom) are released by Virgin on Nov 14. The single, *Like a Rolling Stone*, is out this week

Images carry on spitting

The next series of *Spitting Image* is probably the last. But we ain't seen nothing yet, says Joe Joseph

Spitting Image is dead. The deliciously abusive latex puppets of the kitsch and famous will soon step out in what might be the last series of *Spitting Image*. So does that mean that Michael Heseltine will finally be able to buy his puppet, as he has been trying to do for years? Or that Roger Law and Peter Fluck, who invented the trick of making latex behave like a Muppet on mescaline, will no longer be lounging at the back of the class, lobbing bottles at the teacher?

Thankfully not. There is more than one way to skin a cat, and Fluck and Law know several — all of them in questionable taste. *Spitting Image*, the show, may be running out of steam here, but *Spitting Image*, the production company, is flourishing.

The projects already inked into their diary range from animated sketch shows to feature films, although foreign versions of *Spitting Image* will always keep the puppet-makers busy and the tills ringing. The show has franchises or imitations from Moscow to Tokyo. Turkish politicians have only just learnt what it is like to be lampooned in latex. Newly liberated Eastern

corners drives some colleagues barmy. "If you care about the product," he says, "you don't make a lot of money."

If anything he almost delights in upsetting money-men. One venture he is trying to massage into life is *The Dump*, an animation series based in a rubbish tip. The characters are made of used Brillo Pads and beer cans. Nigel Planer will do the voice-over.

"I took this proposal," Law says, "to Mipcom, a television fair, and this very powerful American distributor said to me: 'What is it with you creative types? You always want to do something new.'" Law roars with laughter at the preposterousness of the industry which provides his livelihood.

His own former managing director left when she could not understand how he was willing to plough £70,000 of the company's money into backing Tim Wans and David Stoten — two of *Spitting Image*'s puppet-makers — who wanted to make an animated short called *The Big Story*. The story's stars are three versions of Kirk Douglas: young, middle-aged and old. The animation is star-



Roger Law: plans in the pipeline

Already off the drawing board in Britain is *Crapston Villas*, an animated soap opera produced for Channel 4. The ten-episode series, which made its debut last Friday, fills our living rooms with a household of flat-dwellers from hell, including Fatso, a cat who eats his own sick. Jane Horrocks and Alison Steadman do two of the voices. Sara Ann Kennedy's warped brain provided the plot.

"Her script was so funny," Law says. "It shocked me, and I'm not easy to shock. So I thought we had to do it."

Now comes a pilot, again for Channel 4, for *The Strip Show*, an animated half-hour sketch show scheduled for release over Christmas. A typical sketch? Try *Leftover Dog*. It's about an ambitious female lawyer who gets her body resculpted and is given a present by her plastic surgeon of her body's off-cuts all sewn together to make a puppy, called *Leftover Dog*. It sounds sick, but it's also very amusing — in a sick way, of course.

If Channel 4 commissions a series, the producer Giles Pilbrow already has plans for a cast of regular animated characters who will be interwoven every week with one-off sketches. "It's a bit of social satire, no politics, but plenty to make you laugh," Pilbrow says. "It has all the freedom of radio, but the advantage of TV. Channel 4 is aware of the success of *The Simpsons*, and this is aiming for the same audience."

This is the first time that money for animation is coming from the comedy department of Channel 4 rather than from animation. They're looking at it as a mainstream comedy venture.

Anything else? Plenty, says Law. At 54, he still tangles with a boy's passion about new ideas, even though his apparent unwillingness about money and refusal to cut

tingly slick. "It took them seven months to make three minutes of film. I lost a perfectly good MD over it. She said: 'You're sad.' But I knew the boys could do it."

As it happened, Quentin Tarantino saw and loved *The Big Story*, provoking Hollywood's interest. "Now we are finalising the contract with a major Hollywood studio to make a full-length feature film in this idiom," Law says.

A dream Law has been nursing since 1989 is to make an animated series of George Herriman's surreal 80-year-old cartoon *Krazy Kat*. The project is finally on the runway, with *Spitting Image* doing a pilot for BBC2 in partnership with America's Hearst Corporation, which owns the rights to the character. The cartoonist Steve Bell is mapping out artwork.

The plot? "Well," Law says, as eager as if he were pitching for a commission, "Krazy Kat loves this mouse called Ignatz, described as 'a villain who believes in getting his future now'. Ignatz hates Krazy Kat and spends all his time brainning the cat with a brick. Officer Pup, the policeman, loves Kat, and gets jealous, so he's always arresting Ignatz and putting him in the slammer. That's all there is, and this work is seminal. Herriman influenced everyone from Disney down."

Sounds plenty to be getting on with. No, no, there's more. "We've been commissioned by ITV Network Centre to do a puppet show that will go out next autumn. But it's not a successor to *Spitting Image*. There will be a lot of satire, but a lot of plain filth as well."

GALLERIES: Charles Hall detects new confidence in a show of recent work by one Britain's best young painters

Raw talent makes its mark

Fiona Rae is working to a formula — a horizontal format, rows of circles, and a newly limited (and rather chilly) range of colours. "If everything's up for grabs every time you want to start a painting," she says, "it's like having to redefine your language every time you open your mouth. This way the painting can go to more interesting places."

And it does: she uses great flat circles, painted like targets, as the foundation for most of these paintings, and floats white linear circles on their surfaces. The effect (apart from raising questions about the relationship between painting and drawing, depicting and embodying) is to create a deep pictorial space between the two planes. That space is occupied and defined by an extraordinary variety of painterly incidents: blots and dribbles, puddles and splatters, and crude, meandering rainbows, apparently made by dragging a paint-smearer stick across the canvas. Rae has always been a brilliant mark-maker, and ev-

ery inch of the 11 paintings in this series (five of which are fully 11 feet long) testifies to that sheer raw talent. But these are paintings which one reads as a rhythmic whole, not as showcases for bravura set-pieces.

The chief interest lies not so much in the detail as in our sense of Rae's manipulation of pictorial space and even time. She draws your eye around the canvas like an old pro, using the centrifugal force of those arcs and arabesques to swing your gaze rhythmically across the surface.

The teasing quality of these new paintings is a long way from the frivolous wit of the works which first brought Rae to prominence. For a start, these are paintings which begin with circles — in her waggish youth, Rae's paintings tended to start with rectangles. It may not sound much, but in effect it signals a new assurance in her art.



Fiona Rae's *Untitled (orange, purple and green)*, 1995: playing with pictorial space

these paintings are generated out of their own formal possibilities, not from allusions to other artists.

Rectangles, after all, could be taken to represent canvases, and those early works generally had the look of several different paintings forced into cohabitation at gunpoint. It wasn't at all unusual to find yourself ambushed, in the middle of what appeared to be a serious exercise in abstraction, by a

little cartoon bunny rabbit, or by a purple powder puff.

Playing off one convention against another, Rae's chief pleasure seemed to be to bring a painting to the very edge of collapse before sending one of her outrageous, virtuoso brush strokes snaking across the canvas to bind the whole tottering edifice together.

The results could be very funny, but they also carried a conceptual charge. After all, Rae was not only a graduate of

London's Goldsmiths' College; she had also, in 1988, participated in *Freeze*, the landmark exhibition organised by her fellow Goldsmiths' graduate, the then unknown Damien Hirst. She liked to force you to acknowledge the artificiality of painting.

"I don't think my paintings are 'universal' or 'pure,'" she wrote, "they're kind of phoney abstract." It's easy to see how Rae made her mark at the time: here was painting you

could admire without having to admit to an unfashionable taste for painting.

Now, in adopting a structural formula, Rae has become — at least for the moment — a formalist. She is quarrying, not deconstructing, exploring the workings of a convention, not simply, smugly exposing it as "conventional". This is painting which eschews pretence, but which passers-by will admire as much as connoisseurs: it is beautiful abstract painting.

But it is important to recognise that the discipline and inventiveness of her painting has its roots in exactly the same sceptical and ingenious critical intelligence as did those earlier satires.

This is not painting which could have been made without the precedent of conceptual art. Goldsmiths' — supposedly the sworn enemy of paint and painters — may yet be recognised as the best thing that ever happened to modern British painting.

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Will An Intimate History of Humanity change the world? Ginny Dougary talks to its author

Rise of new renaissance man

Theodore Zeldin — author, thinker and Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford — has a thing about spectacles. He believes that we can alter the way we look at the world (and, more importantly, the course of our lives) if we change the lens through which we view it. Thus the first chapter in his book *An Intimate History of Humanity*, now published in paperback, is called "How humans have repeatedly lost hope, and how new encounters, and a new pair of spectacles, revive them".



Zeldin: "My interest in the past has a purpose: how can we use it to enable us to live more decently and find alternative methods to go forward?"

Zeldin's spectacles both magnify, enabling him to see patterns in behaviour and customs across an epic sweep of centuries and cultures, and miniaturise, through his encounters with ordinary and extraordinary women (the qualities overlap) who talk to him intimately about their feelings of loneliness, love, desire and despair. He shows us how — by wearing his bifocals — we can use history as a tool to enrich our lives and avoid making the same errors as our ancestors.

Zeldin has a subtle and expansive imagination, which is not easily reined in. He flinches at my attempts to restrict him to discussing the arts in Britain since, although he has an opinion on them (he has an opinion on almost everything), his interests are more protean and, indeed, Olympian in their capaciousness. "Why limit me," one can almost hear him thinking, "to one stage? Or page?"

Particularly since what he is about is making connections between different spheres, building bridges between the expected and the unexpected, transforming the individual into the universal, turning his back on specialisation.

He believes that we are on the verge of a new renaissance, led by women, in which people's private lives will shape public life. Zeldin himself brings to mind a figure from the last Renaissance. Governments (but not our own, of course) invite this thinker to spend time with them, simply because they value the originality of his thoughts. He gives talks on a multitude of subjects to a wide variety of organisations: from the international congress of specialists in Down's Syndrome to the think-tank Demos, from festivals celebrating the centenary of cinema to symposiums on food.

The invitations have multiplied since the publication of the book, a dazzlingly erudite and seductive self-help manual. It strikes a profound

chord among people from diverse cultural backgrounds and metiers who — and this is something new — seem to feel the need to share their discovery with others.

Head of pop, and the classics

Getting a music scholarship to Eton is easy, says Hilary Finch. You just have to be the best

There is clearly more to music at Eton than the Choir and the Choirbook. Some of the music scholars can overreach themselves, especially when it comes to harmony and counterpoint. A second-year just setting out on his GCSE course who submits as his harmony exercise a Gershwin-esque rhapsody is firmly told to go back and do it again.

So high, in fact, is the level of work among Eton's music scholars that, cowed by their achievement, all too few non-scholars choose to take up music as an option in their second year. Which is a pity, as the chances are that they will have been given quite a taste for it in their very first days of term.

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YOUNG AT ART

in front of the New Computer. He's editing a zany video he made of the choir's summer trip to America to his own choice of music; and then composing his own synthesised piece, looping, sampling, sequencing, transforming and digitally converting. A new extension to the Music Schools, currently being designed and planned, will provide space for ten more computers, as well as a recording studio and control room. In a leafy enclave where, in the days of the post Thomas Gray, Old Father Thames might have seen "full many a sprightly race Disporting on the margin green", there will be more practice rooms, a space for lessons in the Alexander technique and two soundproofed rooms for rock bands.

Building on the innovative work of his predecessor, Graham Smallbone, Allwood has increased the number of music lessons each week from 400 to 857, and is proud of his fleet of 58 music teachers, seven of whom are full-time.

There are eight music scholarships on offer each year, worth up to the value of full fees, plus uniform. But Allwood is concerned that far too few boys and parents know they exist. He recently engaged someone for a year to go round as many schools and institutions as he could find, plastering them with leaflets to awaken interest.

He is particularly keen to spread the word about the little-known sixth-form scholarship. This year a boy from a Birmingham state school, son of an unemployed painter and decorator, is enjoying sixth-form life at Eton. He is one of the college's star debaters and has a choral scholarship to Trinity College, Cambridge.

More and more students, too, are edging away from the specialist music schools to continue their studies at Eton. Two I spoke to said there was far more work and more rules at Eton, but also more flexibility and more room to breathe. "You can't come here if you don't enjoy work, and if you're not pretty good at it," one said. "But you can mix with people who are not musicians. If you want to practise six hours a day, you probably should go to a specialist school. But I can practise at least three hours a day if I want to, and act in loads of plays."

All information about forthcoming concerts, scholarships and courses from the Director of Music, Music Schools, Eton College, Windsor, Berks SL4 6EW (01753 671169)

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Christopher Warman outlines the global variations in office costs

David Glascock, of Weatherall, says: "International companies are rationalising property expenditure on a central basis to balance their total occupational costs with their pure business needs."

year. In Berlin, the office vacancy rate has increased from 2.5 per cent to more than 5 per cent, and is expected to reach 6 per cent by the end of the year. The supply/demand imbalance favours the tenant, and overall rents have

In Madrid, letting activity has slowed as most of the major relocations have taken place. With top rents at £15.76 a sq ft, very few lettings have been above the psychologically important level of £16 a sq ft.

Although the Grand Central district has seen some major relocations, 27 blocks of prime space of over 100,000 sq ft remain on the market.

The Downtown market (£23.90 a sq ft) continues to struggle, with a

In the region. Knight Frank International Research reports that commercial property values in Japan are falling at a rate of 2 per cent a month, with values expected to drop by about one quarter in the next 12 months.

erty markets. "Many believe that their home markets are relatively mature and the achievement of superior returns will depend upon gaining access to the fast growth economies of the South-East Asian region."

ANOTHER Stockley Park occupier, Dow Chemical, is to dispose of its UK and Ireland

The city centre scheme includes the Grade II listed Great Northern warehouse.

The increasing strength of the market for land around London's orbital M25 means it is on the edge of a new development cycle

Total supply in the M25 market now stands at around 8.5 million sq ft, and the increasing strength of the market is apparent from the fact that, of the total space available, only 18 per cent is new accommodation.

During the quarter there have been significant lettings at a num-

ber of new developments, including Shaw House, Woking; The Braccans, Bracknell; Dukes Green and 1 Noble Drive at Heathrow; and Ashurst Manor, Ascot.

In the second-hand market, notable schemes include Nyveton House, Staines; Guildford Business Park, Guildford; Stockley

The falling supply of new accommodation is reawakening interest in the M25's established business park locations, which continue to offer second-hand accommodation of the highest quality.

head of research at Knight Frank & Rutley, comments: "In the months ahead, the M25 development market will be rekindled. Led by the southwestern Surrey-based quadrant, developers and investors are now gearing up for a new wave of development. While access to development funding continues to

mitigate against over-ambitious development proposals, an increasing number of funds are now prepared to lend on selective, well-researched schemes."

Partial pre-lets, which are forecast to grow in the coming months will be an important catalyst in new development initiatives, easing the deadlock between over-cautious investors and ambitious developers he says.

CHRISTOPHER WARMAN

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British Coal is offering for sale by private treaty 163 properties in Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire that are either vacant or tenanted

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**Conference
Organiser/PA**
up to £25,000 aae
Hours 9-5.30, 25 days' hols

Based in beautiful period offices with views over the Park, our client wants an exceptional individual with secretarial and administrative experience. Self motivated and with an interest in politics, your varied role will include office management, document presentation, liaison with high profile politicians/captains of industry and organising conferences/seminars in the UK and Europe. Excellent secretarial skills (90/60) and language preferred. If you have the relevant experience to take on this challenging role then please contact Julia Gainsborough-Waring on 0171 434 4512.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

**Investment
Administrator**
Covent Garden
£18-20,000 + Good Bens

Friendly and successful investment management company needs an administrator to assist one of their dynamic team. High energy levels and self motivation are key to meet the demands of this fast paced, pressurised environment. This is an outstanding career opportunity to develop new skills and work on a wide variety of challenging projects. Numeracy and financial markets experience essential, good skills 60 wpm typing, WP's and spreadsheets. Please call Rachel Marsden on 0171 434 4512.

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Recruitment Consultants

PA in the Arts
£18000 minimum
plus perks

Professional City based Arts sponsorship company is seeking a PA to work for the Chief Executive in a 1:1 secretarial role. As well as the truly traditional PA duties such as taking shorthand, organising meetings and international travel you will be responsible for coordinating all Personnel administration for the company (50 people). Initiative and an excellent use of English is required for composing correspondence and a tough, flexible approach in order to enjoy this lively working environment. Skills: 80/60/Windows. Age: 24-40. Please call Claire Ashley on 0171 390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

**PA in Corporate
Finance**
Chartered Accountants
£18,000 + Benefits

We are looking for a self-motivated and proactive PA who can provide total support to the Department Head in a busy, marketing driven area. With a great deal of business involvement the right person for this job must have a great sense of initiative and be able to liaise at all levels. Age indicator: 25-35. If you have excellent skills (50wpm+, WordPerfect 5.1), and could cope with an autonomous role which requires the highest self-standards then please call Gill Turner on 0171-390 7000.

Crone Corkill
Recruitment Consultants

Business Flair
Mayfair
Team Secretary
to £18,000 + banking bens

Based in beautiful Mayfair offices, our client is looking to recruit a bright, proactive, young secretary to work for their highly successful American and European teams. They'll rely on you to use your initiative, fielding calls and preparing presentation documents for well known international blue-chip clients. You'll ideally have at least one year's investment banking or mergers and acquisitions experience with excellent secretarial skills (80/45), windows and spreadsheet knowledge and be looking for a career opportunity. Package worth c.£25,000. Interested? Please call Phoebe Payne on 0171 434 4512.

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Come Alive!
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Are you numerate, articulate, good under pressure? This high profile consumer goods company needs you to put punch into their sales data, presentations and reports and co-ordinate the lives of three dynamic, globe-trotting directors. Advanced Powerpoint essential. Shorthand/typing requested. Step into a higher orbit. Call today. Telephone 0171-494 4466 or fax 0171-494 4469.

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Float Secretaries
£18,500 - £19,000 per annum, £10.00 per hour

We are currently recruiting for top law firms in the City and West End for both permanent and temporary secretaries. You will spend a minimum of 1 year's legal experience, fast audio typing, knowledge of Windows package and a flexible attitude. Please call Kim Harris on 0171 377 9918.

HOBSTONES
LEGAL SECRETARIES

**Personnel Secretary/
Administrator**

The successful applicant will provide full secretarial and administrative support to the Director of Personnel and administrative support to the Personnel Manager and other members of the personnel team.

This position requires strong, proven organisational, interpersonal and secretarial skills coupled with the ability to prioritise a varied work load. Experience within a personnel environment, and knowledge of Microsoft Word for Windows would be an advantage.

If you are interested in the above position, please send a CV and covering letter to: Rachel Seghers, Ref: RS1009, Senior Personnel Officer, The Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London, WC2E 9DD.

The closing date for applications is 17 November 1995.

**Private Secretary to
The President**

Salary £23,000 - £25,000 per annum

The Law Society is the governing body that represents solicitors admitted in England and Wales in a wide range of activities, ranging from law reform and practice management issues to professional education and public relations.

A Private Secretary with a wealth of experience is needed to lend high level support to both the President, who is the elected head of the solicitors' profession, and the Vice-President.

In addition to providing complete secretarial and administrative support, you will often deal with information of a sensitive and confidential nature, respond to incoming mail and ensure that the President is fully briefed on issues and policies before meetings by reading and passing on relevant information. Minute taking and ensuring that action is successfully followed through after such meetings will also be part of the job.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate a substantial amount of experience in a similarly pressurised role, the ability to communicate assertively at all levels, commercial understanding and a flexible approach to work. Typing speed must be no less than 60 words per minute (although some typing support will be available) and knowledge of shorthand and the Ami Pro Windows environment would be advantageous.

We offer an excellent benefits package which includes 25 days' holiday, contributory pension and season ticket loan schemes, free life insurance, private health insurance and health screening after 2 years' service and a subsidised staff restaurant.

Interested applicants should contact the Personnel Department, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL, or telephone 0171 328 5936 (ansaphone) for an application form and job description.

Closing date for completed application forms is Wednesday, 15th November 1995.

The Law Society is striving to be an equal opportunities employer, and welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of sex, race, age, colour, sexuality or disability.

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House of Commons
Department of the Serjeant at Arms
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Grade 3
£11,300 - £17,940

The Department of the Serjeant at Arms has a vacancy for a well qualified Personal Secretary. The post is interesting and varied and requires someone who has a flexible approach with a cheerful personality, to take their place in a busy office team.

Candidates must have accurate skills in word processing (preferably WordPerfect), and a knowledge of shorthand would be an advantage.

Benefits include a non-contributory pension scheme in respect of personal benefits, interest free season ticket loan and generous annual leave.

The successful applicant will be required to start as soon as possible.

For more details and an application form (to be returned by 13th November 1995), write to Recruitment & Assessment Services, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG21 7JB, or telephone Basingstoke (01256) 468551 (ansaphone), or fax 01256 846478. Please quote reference C2731.

Applications from Registered Disabled candidates will be welcomed.

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City - £18,000 + Benefits
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TOP OF THE CLASS
West End £22,500 + Exceptional Benefits
Pan European has been retained as sole agent to recruit a calibre PA for a top international P.C. based in SW1. We are looking for a PA with financial experience (ideally treasury) whose forte is both admin & spreadsheet creation. If you can demonstrate a high degree of initiative, proactiveness & team flexibility, have 80wpm shorthand and some audio - call for an immediate interview. Ideal age 25-35.

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RECRUITMENT**

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to £32,000+ Full Banking Benefits

London

Following an extensive expansion and restructuring programme a new position has been identified within this innovative Human Resources Division. The role carries overall responsibility for interviewing/recruitment of all support staff (c200), specifically: recruitment strategy; needs analysis; manpower planning; internal transfers. In addition your long term remit will be to focus on career development and retention policies. Essential skills are:

- 3-5 years recruitment consultancy experience
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The above requirements should be supported by excellence in the areas of communication and time management. With an A level education as a minimum, having extended your current role to its limits you are probably frustrated by the lack of opportunity. This is the obvious next step for those motivated by the idea of career prospects, breaking new ground and having to give 100% all the time. Age 25-35. Call Sharon Leask or Karen Levine on 0171 390 7000 for further details.

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Dynamic and responsible with a good memory and capable of doing several jobs at once.
Circ £18,000

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Fax 0171 487 4929
Tel 0171 935 0844

Legal Secretary - Corporate

We are a friendly West End firm about to locate to Gray's Inn area. We need an experienced sec/PA (min 4 yrs) for corporate partner. Must have excellent sps, initiative, flexibility and knowledge of WPS's.

Attractive salary plus benefits.

Write with CV to: Mrs H Adair, Barnett Alexander Chart, 34/35 Dean Street, London W1V 5AP. No agencies.

**PA to Director
of Personnel**
Central London
Salary £14,910 pa - £15,880 pa
Depending on experience

This independent charity protects our countryside, coastline, gardens and historic buildings for the nation to enjoy.

Looking after personnel, training and development and health and safety in such a huge dispersed organisation is a major task, which is why our Director of Personnel is looking for a rather special PA to assist her.

In our busy Head Office Department you will provide the Director with a complete secretarial and administrative support service, a task which will make full use of your shorthand, audio and WP skills.

The role calls for an education to at least 'A' level standard, backed by generalist experience at a senior level, preferably gained within a progressive Personnel environment.

If you are tactful, remain calm under pressure, enjoy using your initiative and have excellent organisation and communication skills we would like to hear from you.

For further details and an application form please write to: Sue Davidson, The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 17 November 1995.

THE CURRENT AFFAIR
PRO-ACTIVE PA
£19,000 + Full Banking Benefits

An opportunity to become totally involved in the running of the Eastern European Division of a leading global investment bank. The pace is extremely hectic and as part of the role you will be responsible for managing the flow of information between overseas offices. Its a fascinating and demanding position with lots of variety, responsibility and high levels of client contact. Excellent secretarial and organisational skills are essential.

Call Emily Aldrich on 0171 588 8999

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Assistant to the Head Trader of a global Investment Bank urgently required. It's totally hectic and an early start! Complete admin support, client liaison, travel, lots of meetings to organise, expenses, (Systems, usual: Freelance, Word for Windows and Excel). Banking experience essential. Top rates paid. 5 month contract.

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Chairman of rapidly growing public property co, requires secretary to start immediately. Must have excellent typing & telephone skills and be prepared to cope with full workload and extended hours. This is reflected in the salary of: £20/22,000.

Call David on 0171 629 1188.

PA to Doctor
Knightsbridge

Private general practitioner needs bright, cheerful, well educated and hard working PA to run his busy life. Excellent organisational skills essential, but the ability to work on your own initiative and to deal confidently with people is most important. Medical experience preferred.

Please contact Amanda on 0171-235 6644

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UP TO £18,500**

Are you ready for a career move? Knightsbridge Secretaries are well known for their outstanding candidates and their large selection of unusual jobs. If you have good skills, are well educated and prepared, hard working with a flexible mind-set, please READ ON.....

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STILL INTERESTED? The jobs are all different - some require organisation, others administration, others a quick train, others charm and stylish presentation, others a degree for involvement - please call today for more information.

0171-235 8427.

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SECRETARIES**

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SECRETARY**
£21,000

Exciting opportunity for a very well spoken, immaculately presented Executive Secretary (graduate preferred) to assist the President of prestigious international Hotel chain. Excellent administration & secretarial skills (4+ essential), computer literacy, ability to keep a high level of confidentiality, and proven track record. Ideally aged 30-35.

CALL HAZEL BRADLEY, 0171 403 1528.

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PA Secretary to Publisher

Our client, a renowned international publishing company, seeks a highly talented PA Secretary to assist its extremely busy Publisher. As well as providing first class all round secretarial support, including good shorthand, you will be involved in planning his day to day activities, and organising the office in his absence.

You will be the main focal point for all activity through the publishers office, so naturally you will need to have held a similar position, ideally in a publishing or media related environment. You will of course need excellent communication skills, and be decisive and confident at all times.

This is an outstanding opportunity that will suit someone in their 30's, who possesses initiative, energy and drive, and relishing the prospect of working within a dynamic and hectic organisation.

Please send your full CV including salary details to Jackie Hurst, GMBM Advertising and Research Ltd., 27 Floral Street, London WC2E 9DP.

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**Personal Assistant
to Principal**

£16,329 - £18,390 pa inc

A top quality secretary is required to fill this varied and challenging post. You will provide all-round support to the Principal, requiring the ability to work under pressure with discretion and confidentiality in dealing with professors and students as well as important outside contacts. Duties include the organisation of appointments diary, responsibility for arranging meetings and facilities, and the preparation of reports, speeches, articles and correspondence, requiring fast, accurate shorthand (100wpm) and good presentation on Wordperfect 5.1 (60wpm typing speed).

You will need to demonstrate reliability, conscientiousness and commitment. You should also be able to work on your own initiative and have a minimum of five years' experience in a senior secretarial position. Interest in the arts, especially music and drama, would be an advantage.

An application form and job description can be obtained, in writing only, from Miss Jo Rylance, Finance Office, Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Barbican, London EC2Y 8DT. The closing date for applications is 15th November 1995.

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GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA

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st Midlands



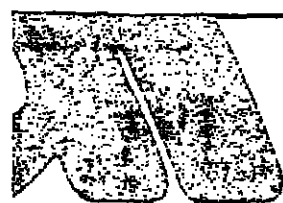
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ROOM AT THE TOP

Blue Chip PA £24,500

This huge, well known, organisation, with interests worldwide, employing over 12,000 people, is looking for a PA to work for its Chief Executive. This is a role which will involve extensive communication, both externally and internally, organising events, and full secretarial support for a dynamic yet down to earth boss. You will need to be an excellent communicator, computer literate (ideally with

a knowledge of Microsoft Office), a good team-player and have several years experience at a senior management level. 80SH/50 Typing
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Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed.
Angela Mortimer



LEGAL SECRETARY

£21,000
Liverpool Street law firm requires an experienced legal secretary who enjoys a high level of responsibility and involvement. Working for a dynamic partner you will need typing of 70wpm and good communication skills. Excellent working environment and benefits package.
For further details on this or many other vacancies call Nicola on 0171 638 6060, or fax your cv on 0171 628 9901.



WHICH WINDOW ARE YOU?

Temp to £10/hour

Hobstones has just been awarded contracts to supply two major international organisations in central London with temporary secretarial/PA cover.

We are therefore looking to expand our professional temp team with experienced secretaries who have 60wpm typing and knowledge of Word for Windows v.6 or Wordperfect for Windows. Short-hand and knowledge of spreadsheet/dtp packages would be an added advantage.

For an immediate interview please telephone Joyce, Victoria or Kim on 0171 377 9919.

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Senior Secretary

£24,000 p/yr

Our client, a leading international company is seeking a proactive, responsible secretary to support one of its dynamic senior directors. Using your excellent organisational and communication skills you will find yourself involved in arranging complex travel itineraries, dealing with expert administration and liaising closely with important clients. Situated in a dynamic office you will enjoy a young, lively working environment and a good social life. This is a true PA role which will provide you with variety and the challenge to make it a success. A financial sector background is essential. Age 26-40, 60 wpm typing/Windows package. Please call Jane Shepherd on 0171 437 6032.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Presentation Secretary

Up to £18,000

A rare opportunity for a DTP secretary to demonstrate their expertise in producing presentation work. This is a high profile role and as a result you must be able to "hold the fort". You will have extensive presentation experience, ideally using Powerpoint or another DTP package. Must have shorthand 80wpm, typing 60wpm. Call Claire Ross-Brown 0171 377 9919

HOBSTONES
RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Maine - Tucker
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PA TO MD

£27,000 + MED + LVS + PENS + STL

Polite, glamorous and an impeccable business mind (and secretarial skills) - a busy, successful, 50wpm typist is needed for a lively, successful, PA. Working in the City company you'll be relied upon for your positive, team minded attitude to work, and your knowledge of the social scene in London as well as your ability to co-ordinate events. If you take pride in the way you look and work, we'd love to hear from you.

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Telephone 0171 734 7341

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18-21 Jersey Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 0171 734 7341

Maine - Tucker
Recruitment Consultants

A VERY SPECIAL PERSON...

£12,000 + BONUSES + FREE LUNCH
...is needed for a unique and exclusive SW1 company. You'll be working primarily for a director in a secretarial/admin capacity for a truly delightful company, and your enthusiasm will be rewarded with the chance to climb a special career ladder. You'll also work with very social and fun people, and the potential to be at the heart of a rich market is a definite reality. You'll need to be 19+ with good typing (55 wpm min) and a firm head on your shoulders to work alongside a very smart team and office.

18-21 Jersey Street, London SW1Y 6HP
Telephone 0171 734 7341

EXCEPTIONAL SECRETARY/ ASSISTANT

Sought by West End Antique Gallery. The ideal applicant will be aged between 35-50, self motivated and able to cope under pressure as part of a small team. First class Secretarial skills, a smart appearance and the ability to deal with clients in an authoritative, calm and capable manner are a prerequisite. Salary C. 20K CV, to Box No 0920

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£18,500 + PAID O/TIME + BANK BENEFITS
A genuine career path exists in a successful, highly stable financial services company. You will be responsible for organising all details of internal and external training courses and for being a member of a successful, team spirit, highly motivated staff.

ADMIN SH SECRETARY

PRIVATE BANKING £17,000
This exciting role involves a calm, motivated, self-motivated individual in a secure, successful company. You will be responsible for organising all details of internal and external training courses and for being a member of a successful, team spirit, highly motivated staff.

SNR SH SEC - EQUITIES INVESTMENT BANKING

£27,000 PACKAGE
Successful and established company with a long history of success in the financial services industry. You will be responsible for organising all details of internal and external training courses and for being a member of a successful, team spirit, highly motivated staff.

EXEC SEC/PA - CHAIRMAN LEVEL

£23,500 BASE + BANKING BENS + O/TIME
The ideal PA for a Chairman will be a professional, self-motivated, highly organised individual. You will be responsible for organising all details of internal and external training courses and for being a member of a successful, team spirit, highly motivated staff.

SHORTHAND PA

£22K BENS
MD of prestigious co. needs a stylish & polished PA with the confidence to deal with influential business people & VIP's. You will be involved in all aspects of the business and will be responsible for organising all details of internal and external training courses and for being a member of a successful, team spirit, highly motivated staff.

FASHION PA TO MD

£20,000 + benefits
Leading name in retail seeks an efficient PA/Sec for 1:1 role in their corporate HQ. Visionary position, involving liaison with key members of the company's office + handling your own projects. Director level exp. 40+ short-term, late 20s preferred. Please call BODGE RECRUITMENT 0171 628 8863

Raglan Properties plc

Raglan Properties plc is an expanding £150 m property investment trading and development company based in Savile Row, London, W1. Following recent expansion the company now wish to appoint a high calibre candidate to the following position.

PA/Secretary to Investment Manager

We are looking for an intelligent committed PA/Secretary. The candidate needs to be flexible and highly accurate and able to organise a team of 2 busy executives. Good WP skills (Word and Excel) and the ability to think ahead and prioritise are essential. Previous experience in the property sector is an advantage. We offer a competitive salary and package.

Please reply with CV to Caroline Landers, Raglan Properties plc, 6 Savile Row, London, W1X 1AF, Fax Number 0171-208 0538.

SECRETARY/MEDIA ASSISTANT

We are a small media advertising agency and are looking to recruit somebody who has secretarial skills and is looking for an opportunity to become involved in media. Knowledge of Lotus 123, Amigo and Freelance Graphics required. If you are happy working in a challenging but fun environment with occasional long hours please send your CV to Susan Starch, Whitlock House, 6 Ears Court Road, London, W8.

CLUTTONS

PA/SECRETARY DOCKLANDS

Cluttons, a leading international real estate company, is seeking a PA/Secretary to support one of its dynamic senior directors. Using your excellent organisational and communication skills you will find yourself involved in arranging complex travel itineraries, dealing with expert administration and liaising closely with important clients. Situated in a dynamic office you will enjoy a young, lively working environment and a good social life. This is a true PA role which will provide you with variety and the challenge to make it a success. A financial sector background is essential. Age 26-40, 60 wpm typing/Windows package. Please call Jane Shepherd on 0171 437 6032.

LEGAL SECRETARY

with commercial/conveyancing experience required for busy property company. Must have a good standard of education, be well spoken, presentable and a team player. Efficiency, accuracy and a good sense of humour essential. Good knowledge of WordPerfect 6.0 and audio essential. Salary neg. The Artesian Companies, 60 Webb Road, London SW11 6SE or by fax to 0171 585 0152. No Agencies.

TO 23,000 + EXCELLENT BENS

The following is a small selection of current roles available. Major U.S. bank req 2 P.A.s for teams of 3 M & A Directors who will rely on you fully to co-ordinate their hectic workload. P.A. to Inv Officer, extensive full liaison, min typing presentation/memo of data, meetings/travel/expense administration. (7/7P) Marketing Team Sec with some DTP exp to produce presentations etc. (7/7P) 1-1 role for M.D. of U.S. Bank, 80% DTP on Powerpoint - career role. All roles neg. salary and benefits. URGENT. Tel: 0171 929 1281 Fax: 0171 621 0985

MEDICAL SECRETARY

Salary C. £13,500

Secretary with audio skills required to work within the Claims Handling Unit of the Medical Defence Union which provides medico-legal assistance to the medical profession. The post-holder will provide secretarial and administrative support to a small claims handling team dealing with personal injury claims. Applicants should have excellent WP skills with accuracy and attention to detail being of great importance. The ability to work under pressure is required as the department always has a heavy workload. Benefits include LVA, contributory pension scheme, BUPA. The MDU has a no-smoking policy. Written applications with CV to Mrs V Cole, The Medical Defence Union, 3 Devonshire Place, London, W1N 2EA.

WA £25,000 + Bkg Bens

TRADING FLOOR PA

This is a dynamic and busy role for an organised and energetic PA with at least 6 years senior level experience within the banking industry. The ideal candidate will have an outgoing and warm personality and have the initiative to juggle the many conflicting tasks under pressure. Working for a senior Managing Director on the Trading Floor, you will be expected to liaise with clients and senior personnel on a daily basis. Accurate typing and good PC skills are a necessity.
0171 225 1888
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £23,000 + Bens

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

This is a fantastic opportunity for a first class organiser who wants to combine their strong admin and secretarial skills with developing their business knowledge. Your boss is responsible for all business activity in Europe and is therefore reliant on your ability to liaise with very senior clients. You must be intelligent, well presented, enthusiastic and diplomatic. An interest in consumer or media affairs would be preferable along with 60wpm typing and a good knowledge of WAW.
0171 225 1888
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

WA £15,000 + Bens

COLLEGE LEAVER/ 2ND JOBBY

Would you like to work in a dynamic, progressive and exciting organisation? Do you have six months secretarial experience? This well-known US investment bank is looking for a junior secretary to provide full support to a busy team, in a role which will include organising their diaries, making travel arrangements, typing correspondence and liaising at all levels. If you have good WAW, 50wpm typing and are a bubbly team player, call us now.
0171 225 1888
VICTORIA WALL ASSOCIATES

MONEY TALKS £14,000 PACKAGES

enjoy being part of a team situation. If you want to enjoy the responsibility of working at the sharp end of the financial markets RING US TODAY. Banking experience preferred, excellent word processing experience essential, skills 90/60, A-Level. 0171-814 0800
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer.

Angela Mortimer

COMMUNICATIONS PA

£20,000 + Bonus
A leading international telecommunications organisation working in the City of London is seeking an executive PA to support a senior executive. The role involves a high level of responsibility for corporate hospitality and research. Educated to A level standard, you will be a proactive

PA with excellent administrative skills who is efficient and able to use initiative. A communications background is essential in order to meet the exacting demands of this challenging role. Please call Angela Mortimer on 0171-287 7788
Angela Mortimer is an equal opportunities employer. All applications are positively welcomed.

Angela Mortimer

Office typecasting

The role of the screen secretary is changing to reflect the Nineties workplace, says Jennai Cox

Her lipstick is always immaculate, she never takes days off and has a remarkable knack of getting away with cheeking the boss. You never see her out of the office and she will never lose her job. To some she is an insult, to others, a heroine. She is the secretary of the screen.

Few television programmes take place in a work environment and the scenes of those that do are usually fleeting. But more scriptwriters are realising the potential of office drama, and the screen secretary is coming into her own.

Miss Moneybags is one secretary few will have missed: always beautifully turned out, always polite and always disappointed at not having been wooed by 007. None of today's screen secretaries measures up to this image and few scriptwriters take their inspiration from her.

"She is too perfect," says Simon Nye, writer of the sitcom *Is it Legal?* (ITV). "It is difficult not to stereotype a secretary and I hope I haven't. Those I came in contact with were all rather fierce, and I think that comes across in *Alison*. Alison is the blonde, long-legged, twenty-something secretary who works for Lotus Spackman and Phelps solicitors and spends her days reading magazines and thinking about the next party."

"She is bored and needs a job more suited to her character," says Nye. "But she is on top of things and in control of the men in the office." Secretaries on television

today do not have affairs with the boss, and Alison is forthright and unfeeling when rejecting advances. Nye says he receives criticism that the show is not entirely real but Kate Isitt, who plays Alison, says the character is more true to life than is sometimes assumed. Having been a temp while looking for acting work, Isitt says she can sympathise with her character.

"When I read the part of Alison I thought, 'I know this girl so well.' Isitt says, "I hated most of the secretarial jobs I did and at 3pm it was all I could do to keep my head off the desk. A lot of secretaries feel like that, and those with any initiative can end up running an office for no thanks."

Isitt admits secretaries do not generally get a good press but says although her character is entirely self-interested, she is competent and gets the work done.

"People have this image of them powdering their noses, and there are those. But there are many secretaries running offices for their higher paid boss, so Alison's character can be misleading."

Isitt feels a responsibility towards other secretaries for her character perpetuating a rather negative image, but says the programme is

really too ridiculous to take seriously, and the type she plays does exist.

"There are faces of Alison in many young secretaries. As soon as the sun comes out, they take sick leave. But anyone who watches the programme for any kind of insight would be misguided."

Elizabeth Casper, a secretary in a real solicitors' office in Wiltshire, agrees. "To make the programme entertaining they have to go over the top. But we are in a very serious profession."

Aspects of the working world do filter through. Susannah Doyle, who plays Joy Merryweather in *Drop the Dead Donkey* (Channel 4), received dozens of letters from secretaries telling her their own positions were similar to her character's. Merryweather is efficient but resents being the office dog-boddy, refusing to make anyone coffee and relieving her frustration by making fun of her colleagues.

"She embodies the outspoken secretary many would like to be but are afraid to be because they could lose their jobs," Doyle says. The only reason Joy gets away with being so brazen, says Andy Hamilton, one of the series' writers, is her proficiency.

Irene Sutcliffe, who plays Gloria,

a secretary for a theatrical agency, in *The Ten Percenters* (ITV), creates a history for her characters.

"Gloria is a widow with no children, lives alone, has a dry sense of humour and thinks she runs the show. You have to know the kind of person you are, or you won't convince anyone else."

Anthea in *Men Behaving Badly* (BBC1), played by Valerie Minifie, is quite different. She tells her boss she cannot do an assertiveness training course because she had "planned to rearrange her apron drawer". But she is not a negative character, Minifie says, because she manages to hold her own.

The on-screen secretary never does much typing, nor does she work for only one person. Research carried out by Fasttrack, an association for career-minded support staff, shows that since the traditional work of the secretary passed to computers, the office-wife syndrome has largely disappeared.

"Agencies are placing far more intelligent girls in secretarial vacancies because the marketplace has changed, and that is reflected on television," says Pam Callaghan of Fasttrack.

Gail Cornish, corporate co-ordinator for the association and a secretary for many years, says it is healthy to see television programmes portraying secretaries as strong women. She says: "There is much more for them now than years ago. They will no longer put up with having their bums pinched, whether real or fictitious."



She may be bored but Alison, the secretary in *Is it Legal?* won't allow her bottom to be pinched

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Stratford is to be rebuilt in Japan

they play, while there is also a corner that is kept tidy for adult life.

Downstairs there is a separate mini-flat for Almas Jarasiewicz, the Greenishes' au pair. "The house works terribly well for a family and our au pair can go in and out at weekends and in the evenings and we won't hear her," says Mrs Greenish, who is planning to set up her own design company from their new home. "No one will be disturbed and that's much more relaxing for her, too. Both the nanny and the employee need freedom."

The Greenish family are hoping to move to a large house with a bigger garden.

RACHEL KELLY

[illegible]

44 SPORT

Champions still seeking first point

Blackburn eyeing Blinker to fill left-wing vacuum

By PETER BALL

BLACKBURN go into their match against Legia Warsaw at Ewood Park tonight knowing that it offers their last slim chance of retaining any interest in the European Cup this season, but Ray Harford has other European matters on his mind.

The Blackburn manager is going to Holland tomorrow to watch Everton play Feyenoord in the second leg of their European Cup Winners' Cup second-round tie.

Everton are Blackburn's next FA Carling Premiership opponents, but on this occasion Harford's decision does not reflect the parochialism of which his club is sometimes accused. He is also going to watch Regi Blinker, Feyenoord's Holland international winger.

While the final details of the signing of Graham Fenton from Aston Villa were being sorted out yesterday, Harford

said that further signings are in the offing, adding, "and the next one may be a big one".

At £1 million, Blinker, who is 26 and has won four caps for Holland, is hardly that, but as a left winger he could prove a vital acquisition for Blackburn. Wilcox's long-term absence through injury having deprived them of a key element from the side which won the Premiership.

"We have never got our shape back since Wilcox went out of the team," Harford said yesterday. It's been modified all the time since he's been out. We had Witschge last year for a while, but we've never really had anybody to take his place. We've probably had five players this year trying to. We've been stuttering because we haven't got any left-footed width. We've been without Le Saux as well, so we haven't got a left-footer in the team."

Le Saux trained with the

reserves yesterday, but he is not expected to take part today. Apart from the absence of a natural left-footed player, however, Blackburn go into the match this evening in good heart and better shape than their eleventh position in the Premiership might suggest.

Since their defeat by Legia in Warsaw two weeks ago, they have at last begun to play with some consistency. Harford believes that the 3-0 win over Chelsea last Saturday was their best performance of the season.

Importantly, they are at last spreading their goals around the team, with Sherwood and Newell both contributing, to ease the burden on Shearer. Since he won his place back at Watford a week ago, Newell has shown signs of re-establishing his partnership with Shearer. "They've played very well together in the two games," Harford said.

That also reflects that the team's confidence is coming back, and they are beginning to pass the ball with more conviction than at the start of the season. The introduction of Bohinen has played an important part in that, and although he is ineligible for the Champions' League, Harford hopes the side's growing confidence will mean his absence is not crucial. Warhurst, who played well in the role at Watford, is expected to replace Bohinen.

"Some of our passing was terrific and our movement really good against Chelsea," Harford said. "When you are playing well and are confident, you do pass it. And no matter what shape or what style you are playing, when you get into the final third, you have to pass the ball to create movement, to create gaps, to create chances."

Accurate passing and retention of possession are essential if Blackburn are to gain their first points tonight. They could hardly have a better opportunity as Legia are arguably their weakest opponents in group B.

"It would be disappointing to go through the whole tournament without getting a point," Sherwood, the Blackburn captain, said. "This is our chance — if we get off to a good start."



Le Saux, who is on the verge of returning to the Blackburn team after injury

Magilton misses Austria tie

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JIM MAGILTON will be missing when Northern Ireland face Austria in the European championship group six qualifier in Belfast in two weeks' time. A blood clot in his leg has kept the Southampton midfielder out of the squad named yesterday by the manager, Bryan Hamilton.

The squad is, however, back to full strength in attack, with Iain Dowie and Keith Gillespie returning after one-match suspensions. Gillespie scored his first international goal in Northern Ireland's 2-1 win in Vienna last October.

Alan McDonald, of Queens Park Rangers, is also back to

bolster his country's defence after missing two games through suspension and injury. The former captain may struggle, however, to regain his place. Barry Hunter and Colin Hill have played well together in his absence.

Michael O'Neill, the Hibernian play-maker who stood in for Magilton last month in the away win over Liechtenstein, is likely to do so again and Keith Rowland, of West Ham United, has been called in as cover.

One man hoping for a Northern Ireland victory is Jack Charlton, the Republic of Ireland manager. His team —

who are one point ahead of Austria with one game left — play Portugal in Lisbon on the same evening and a win for Northern Ireland would see the Republic safely through to the European championship finals in England in June.

Hamilton, whose team cannot qualify, wants victory for his own sake. "It would be a nice way to sign off," he said.

SQUAD: A. Fenton (Aston Villa), T. Wood (Reading), P. McGovern (Manchester United), B. Hunter (Aberdeen), H. McCann (Aberdeen), M. McDonald (Queens Park Rangers), M. Hughes (West Ham United), K. Rowland (West Ham United), I. Dowie (West Ham United), K. Gillespie (Southampton), N. Larnon (Glasgow Rangers), P. Gray (Sheff Wed), J. Quinn (Reading), G. McLellan (Tottenham Hotspur), M. O'Neill (Aberdeen).

Wounded pride lifts Rangers in attempt to settle score

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THE power of sentiment will receive a severe test at Ibrox Stadium this evening. Rangers meet Juventus in a European Cup Champions' League tie and, having lost 4-1 in Turin a fortnight ago, are in a highly-charged frame of mind. It remains to be seen, however, whether deeply-felt emotion can bring more than superficial improvement against technically superior opponents.

Ever since that drubbing in the Stadio delle Alpi the comments of Rangers' players and management have bristled with references to self-respect and the need to make amends. Even Paul Gascoigne, who missed the trip to Italy through injury, announced yesterday: "This match is for the gaffer."

There was a late-night movie quality to the remark, recalling Ronald Reagan's line "win one for the Gipper" in the 1940 film *Knute Rockne, All American*. Football, though, does not often share Hollywood's penchant for the happy ending and it will be difficult for Rangers to inspire themselves to reach the levels of performance that looked so natural to Juventus in Turin.

The Rangers manager, Walter Smith, is normally suspicious of the gung-ho spirit of football in Britain, but even he shrugged aside the idea of adopting a methodical approach. "Patience," he said, "never has been much of a part of what we do in Scottish football. We must impose ourselves on the game. At no point did we do that in Turin and we were just bit-part players there."

The emphasis on spirit, heart and other nebulous concepts stems, above all, from the sheer lack of substance in the Rangers squad at present. At more distressed moments Smith must believe that those players not injured are suspended. For one reason or the other, Alan McLaren, Alex Cleland, Gordon Durie, Brian Laudrup, David Robertson and Craig Moore will all be missing this evening.

That casualty list may force Smith to abandon a new-season resolution. For the past few months he has persevered with a three-man defence but now must consider whether the nature of the players still available to him might make a

traditional back four more sensible. There are, of course, many whose contempt for the display in Turin leaves them believing that Rangers' tactics are an irrelevance in any case.

Gascoigne bristles at some of the criticism to be heard within the game. After Aberdeen's Coca-Cola Cup victory over Rangers last week, for instance, the winger, Joe Miller, had predicted the decline of the Ibrox team. Gascoigne said: "When we lose games we are getting sick from people who are not even in the Champions' League. They should realise it is Rangers that make Scottish football what it is."

The assertion was rather grandiose, but it did suggest how strong Gascoigne's identification with the club has become. Rangers' need of him is just as intense and only the



Smith: rallying call

Englishman's skills, at their most persuasive, can help the Scottish champions to win the argument this evening.

Juventus arrived in Glasgow with a squad free from injury but bruised after the 4-0 defeat by Lazio on Sunday. Referring to his principal forward, fit again after straining a hamstring, the Juventus coach, Marcello Lippi, did, nonetheless, declare: "Like [Gianluca] Viali we will recover."

The club has lately been in the habit of following unsatisfactory results at home with excellence in Europe. It is a pattern that threatens to unravel Rangers' hopes.

RANGERS' probable 4-4-2: A. Goram — S. Wright, G. Gray, G. Paton, J. Brown — C. Miller, S. McCall, P. Gascoigne, I. Ferguson — A. McCourt, O. Salomon. **JUVENTUS' probable 4-3-1-2:** A. Peruzzo — C. Ferraro, P. Marchionni, S. Poma, M. Tomassini — A. Costa, P. Sousa, D. Deschamps — A. Del Piero — G. Viali, F. Ravetto.

Stubbs content to keep options open

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

ALAN STUBBS, the Bolton Wanderers defender, expects to sign a contract this week to stay at Burnden Park, yet speculation about his long-term future remains. Stubbs, whose ambition of a transfer to one of the leading clubs in the FA Carling Premiership evaporated earlier in the autumn, is insisting on a clause to allow his early release if he can revive interest.

Stubbs, who played in midfield for Bolton in the defeat of Arsenal on Monday, said: "I'm still ambitious — there would be something wrong with me if I wasn't — and I'm sure both sides will want certain clauses inserted."

Stubbs, an elegant centre half who had been linked with Arsenal, Blackburn, Manchester United and Liverpool, said, however, that he is ready to make a fresh commitment to Bolton. "It's a relief to get it settled. The club wanted to reward me from last year for helping to get them promoted. They offered

me it about three weeks into the season, but the time wasn't right for me. Now we've spent a week discussing what will be in the contract and I hope it will all be settled by the end of this week."

Stubbs is preparing for a fresh start with the club he helped into the Premiership via the first-division play-offs last season. "Everything that went on unsettled me quite a lot and my mind wasn't on the job in the first few games of the season. It hurt as well with what some of the fans were saying. But if I put myself in their shoes, I'd feel the same. No one wants a club to sell their best players. I hope it's all been forgotten. They've been brilliant since I came back into the side."

Stubbs played a significant role as Bolton inflicted only the second defeat of the season on Arsenal, creating the only goal for John McGinlay and helping to tame the threat of Ian Wright and Dennis Bergkamp.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Andrew Robson played this hand well in a Premier League match.

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Andrew Sheehan played this hand well in a Premier League match.

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Light entertainment and serious money

Newspapers, you cannot fail to have noticed, take the subject of money very seriously — whole sections are dedicated to its accumulation and investment. Television, on the other hand, hardly gives it a second glance. Apart from our weekly 15 minutes with Ant and Dec, we're basically left with the choice between the worthy but soporific *Money Programme*... and whatever's on the other side.

So why has it taken so long to come up with something like *Dosh* (Channel 4)? First and, indeed, second impressions were that this was the typical treatment Channel 4 metes out to any subject: deliberately rough around the edges, fast-paced and aggressively irreverent. Wonga Poon's *The Word* — nuff said. Well, not quite. For the surprise third impression was that *Dosh* was rather good.

There was no pretence that watching the programme would

somehow make you seriously rich, no patronising assumption that everyone watching had already accumulated a sensible little nest egg and now wanted advice on how it might be prudently invested. Instead the first priority was to make a programme about money that was entertaining and the second was to appeal to as wide an audience as possible by employing three safe assumptions — that none of us has enough of it, that we'll do just about anything to get more of it and prudence can go hang.

As a result, last night's opening show included items on how to make up to £45 a week by donating sperm and a man who played roulette for one night only, placing his entire life savings, some £150,000, on red. He won and then did just about the only sensible thing we saw all night — he walked away.

The series is presented by Shami Ahmed. No, I hadn't heard of him either, but I had heard of Joe

Blogs, the jeans company he founded and very modestly mentioned last night. This man is seriously rich but, despite that, his links into lessons about haggling and making money at car boot sales never sounded patronising: "You don't get what you deserve, but what you negotiate."

On paper, *Nice Work: 8 Days a Week* (BBC2) looked the ideal companion to *Dosh*, dealing, as it purported, to, with the never-ending expansion of the working week. But somewhere along the line, someone lost the plot.

They should have stuck with their first case history. Sarah Montgomery-Smith and Stephen Windsor-Lewis, a couple who presumably put in long hours just introducing themselves. They were straight out of the adverts — he an accounts director and normally away, she a financial adviser and



normally in a red sports car, doing business on her mobile phone.

At times you half suspected that they might have been rehearsing. "Sex?" said Sarah, with a coy toss of her blonde hair — oh yes, she remembered. "We used to do it in the Eighties." The rest was all "I'm back on Wednesday." Sorry darling, I'm in Scotland. Perfect.

But unfortunately the cameras moved on to two other couples, for

whom overwork had been overtaken by more serious problems. Mitchell Field clearly did work hard, but his main concern was a son seriously ill with leukaemia. As for the Myluses, their jointy firm was threatened by everything from adverse planning decisions to the state of their marriage. Long hours barely got a look-in.

For the programme's producers it should have been start-again time. But it wasn't. The result was a needlessly distressing "six months later" sequence at the end, which revealed that while Sarah and Stephen had finally found the time to get married, the Fields' son had died, the Myluses had separated and the husband had left the company. Someone should have shouted "cut" a lot earlier.

Someone could have shouted "cut" a little more often in *Network First* (ITV) which set out to expose child prostitution in the Philippines. You couldn't imagine

the camera lingering at such length on a young British girl as she tearfully recalled being raped.

Tim Tate's disturbing film examined the problem through the eyes of Father Shay Cullen, a Roman Catholic priest (I do hope Jimmy McGovern wasn't watching) who has been fighting child prostitution for 25 years. Father Cullen gives the impression of an innocent abroad, but the world he revealed with the help of Tate's hidden cameras was far from that of his innocence years ago.

Perhaps the most alarming sequence came when Tate brought his team home to find out what the British Government and police had done about the 15 known paedophiles the Philippines had deported. The answer was: nothing. The names lay on file at the National Criminal Intelligence Service, any domestic investiga-

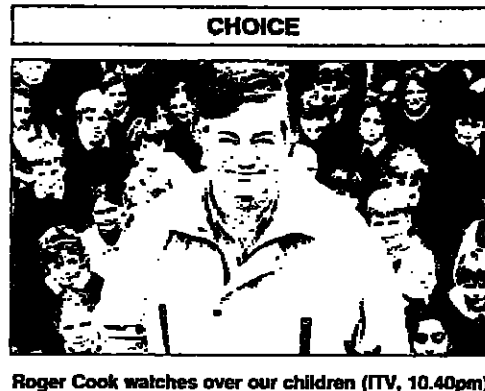
tion apparently hindered by a lack of accompanying addresses.

"But we've got addresses, why haven't you?" asked Tate. "Well, presumably what you said," said the chief inspector: "You requested it." Clearly not the chap who put the I in NCIS.

And clearly not a chap ever likely to feature in Melanie Phillips's scholarly investigation, *Who Killed the Family?* (BBC2). With the help of a distinguished cast of talking heads (and some pretty distinguished fireplaces to opine in front of) she elegantly propounded the argument that the decline of family life had little to do with poverty or the welfare state and everything to do with the behaviour of a middle-class, educated elite pursuing the dream of romantic and sexual satisfaction. I think that means it's my fault... Sorry.

— Lynne Truss is on holiday

REVIEW



Roger Cook watches over his children (ITV, 10.40pm)

The Cook Report Special (ITV, 10.40pm)

A catalogue of horrific crimes against young people comes to light in this hour-long film heralding a new series of Roger Cook's sensational but worthwhile reports. Perhaps the most disturbing programme in the network's Children in Danger Week, the show includes a report on drug-taking which has prompted a death threat for Cook. Also featured are disturbing items on paedophilia and, in India, the appalling practice of crippling child beggars so that they bring in more money for their gang leaders. Alarming statistics are bandied about during the film, but as always it is the remarks of victims that linger in the memory. "He should have got the life sentence he gave me," says one woman of the man who raped her as a child.

Modern Times: Bogus Callers (BBC2, 9.00pm)

Those waiting to have their faith restored in human nature need not tune into Nick O'Dwyer's film about door-to-door canvassers, the first of a new series of documentaries. West Yorkshire Police have been using hidden cameras to capture the bogus callers on film. This, of course, makes for hideously compelling viewing as we watch how one old man, Fred, is repeatedly duped into parting with £30 or £40 at a time. Detectives explain how for some elderly victims, the shock kills them. One woman confesses to how hard it has been to learn to trust people, but still this is of no matter to the often violent criminals. "I've got no morals when I was on the drugs," says the perpetrator of 892 offences, now behind bars.

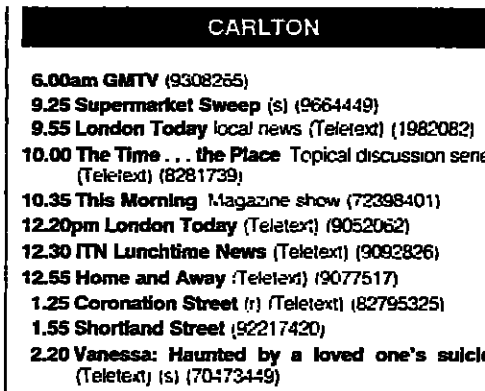
My Secret Life: Swinging from the Chandeliers (BBC2, 9.50pm)

This stylishly filmed new series delves into our extraordinary private lives. Today Sue and John (not their real names) talk about their "swinging parties", the 1990s term for wide-swapping evenings. There are only so many things you can do with sex and two people," explains Sue of their decision to seek extra excitement. While the camera lingers suggestively on bottoms and suspender belts, the pair's commentary remains almost comically down-to-earth. As they point out, you can't have good sex on a full stomach so catering at their parties is blissfully simple. In fact the important thing to get right is that bowl of coloured condoms looking for all the world like jelly beans.

The Real Holiday Show (Channel 4, 8.30pm)

The unorthodox travel show returns with more camcorder records of people's real holidays. This ought to mean we gain a far truer picture of the destinations in question. In fact we learn less, but there is ample compensation in being able to share the holidaymakers' genuine triumphs and disasters. The stars of tonight's show are the Sankar family from Leicester who bring back spirit-lifting footage of their daughter, who has cerebral palsy, enjoying herself in Alicante, Spain. Second prize goes to the reckless gang of hard-drinking medical students who party hysterically on a barge on the River Avon. "At least you don't have to worry about breakfasting your patients," says one future doctor we must all try to avoid.

— Stephanie Billen



Sarah Lancashire stars as Raquel (9.30)

9.30 Coronation Street. A modelling agent casts his eye down the street, but Fiona rather than Raquel is the focus of his interest. Starring Sarah Lancashire and Angela Griffin. (47536)

10.00 ITN News at Ten (Teletext) (19265)

10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) (276807)

10.40 Children in Danger Week: The Cook Report Special (263178)

11.40 Champions League Highlights. Jim Rosenthal introduces the pick of the action from a busy night in the European League. Both Arsenal, Blackburn and Glasgow Rangers, need victories because first-runners such as the holders Ajax and Bobby Robson's Porto could beat them to the final stages. (135826)

12.45am The Little Picture Show (2558902)

1.00 The Album Show (1447024)

2.45 Hollywood Report (5341111)

3.10 America's Top Ten (1) (37275956)

3.35 On the Live Side (1) (14873173)

3.40 Sport AM (1) (4186888)

4.35 McGovern's Way: A Winter's Tale. Nature programme. Gales, lambs, toads and small birds in Ireland (88643376)

5.00 Vanessa (Teletext) (1) (1314)

5.30 ITN Morning News (47192). Ends at 6.00

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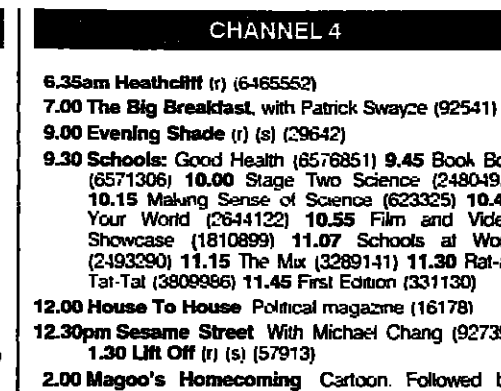
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Gaby Roslin presents real holidays (8.30pm)

8.30 The Real Holiday Show. (Teletext) (8449)

9.00 Dispatches. How peers have used their position in the Upper House to pursue their own and others' commercial interests (Teletext) (540352)

9.45 Heart Songs. A Short and Curious film about a driver lost in the wastes of Ontario. Starring Tom McCamus (1) (467048)

10.00 Northern Exposure. (Teletext) (537130)

10.55 Rory Bremner — Who Else? (1) (871246)

11.35-2.35 The Shooting Gallery: A Hero of Our Time (4th). An off-beat thriller starring Dennis Hopper, directed by Michael Almerdy (188197)

12.10am Family Reunions. A ghoulish comedy. Followed by Swinger. A man trying to hang himself tries to struggle free of the noose when good news comes from the answerphone (241895)

12.45 The Audition. A Method actor oversteps the bounds between illusion and reality (4709734)

1.20 To Kill a Dead Man. Mercury award-winning indie band Portishead create a film noir (1) (2219289)

1.35 Reckoning. A young man's decision to commit suicide is postponed (8808840)

1.45 In the West Wing. Animated drama (1) (9353579)

1.50 Game With No Rules. Two lovers plot to kill the man's wife (1) (5722686)

2.10 London South West. A drama about a domestic dispute that leads to violence (1) (9407588)

2.25 The Winding Sheet. Karen Kelly's film questions the right of anyone to sit in judgment of women driven to the brink by their feelings of worthlessness (1) (1623579). Ends at 2.35

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WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 1 1995

Davies switches back to union

Wales rejoices
at return of
favourite son

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

AT HOME in Widnes yesterday Jonathan Davies was as much in a daze as anyone at events which have propelled him back into the bosom of Welsh rugby union. There will be no time for readjustment, after nearly seven years of rugby league, should Cardiff decide to play the former Wales stand-off half in their Heineken League match with Aberavon on Saturday.

The country rejoiced at the return of the man once considered too small and delicate for rugby: a player whose silky skills, according to some observers, would be crushed by the brutality of league. Davies bestrode both codes and his homecoming, agreed in personal terms with Cardiff, will square the circle of an extraordinary playing career.

After Warrington relented, by accepting Cardiff's second improved offer of £90,000 compensation, Davies said: "It has been a bewildering time, but I'm delighted to be returning. It is about going home first and rugby second. All I can do is take one step at a time. The first is actually getting into the Cardiff team. It's going to take some adapting, but nothing can be as physically demanding as rugby league. I wouldn't have missed it for anything."

It is entirely appropriate that Davies, a code-breaker in a Welsh pantheon alongside Billy Boston, Jim Sullivan, David Watkins and the late Gus Rimmer, should be the first in Britain to cross back along the free gangway between the codes opened up by the International Rugby Football Board. The route he took from Llanelli to Widnes in January 1989 offered no prospect of a return.

What Davies called recently a "ridiculous dream" could see several returnees, in addition

to himself and Jonathan Griffiths, the former Wales scrum-half, who is going back for an undisclosed sum to Llanelli, the club he left five months after Davies to join St Helens and where he has been out of contract since June. David Young and Phil Ford, of Salford, and Adrian Hadley, of Widnes, might join them.

The return of Davies is as symbolic to rugby union in Wales as it is to the game he left yesterday. Maurice Lindsay, chief executive of the Rugby Football League (RFL), sees him as a pathfinder for players to switch codes and



Davies: bewildered

play trial matches in league without penalty. "In other words, we expect his signing will bring an end to 100 years of hypocrisy," Lindsay said.

Nonetheless, at a time when the Wales rugby league team is riding a high, the defections are particular blows. Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, admitted that the defections had put a question mark against its long-term future, unless the RFL resurrected a plan to base a Super League club in South Wales to build on the momentum created by the World Cup.

Robert Jones struck a chord for the nation in welcoming back his former international half-back partner. "It's tremendous news for the rugby public, which has been in the doldrums," the Wales scrum-half said. The uplifting sight of Davies back at the National Stadium could come as early as Cardiff's game there with Western Province next Tuesday, but when and if he will return in a Wales shirt is another matter.

At 33, Davies reckons on playing the remainder of this season and next. He has no burning ambition to add to his 27 Wales caps and his selection could only be backward-looking. "I accept I'm no spring chicken," he said. "My main areas of concentration now are Cardiff, my business pursuits in Wales and settling the family back down there."

Rugby league had the best of Davies and Doug Laughton, the Widnes manager who talked him into changing codes, said Davies owed the sport nothing after a wonderful career, in which he won everything with Widnes except the Challenge Cup — he was a losing finalist in 1993.

He led Wales and Great Britain with distinction, was player of the year in 1991 and 1994, the year he became the first union convert to win the coveted Man of Steel award. If one moment summed up his genius, it was the blistering acceleration to out-manoeuvre Australia for the winning try at Wembley last year.

As well as an extra stone of muscle on his 5ft 8in, 13-stone frame, Davies returns older, wiser and a more complete player than when he left. When awarded an MBE last January, it was for services as a "rugby player". It is the lack of distinction Davies enjoys which sets him apart.



James Burland, architect of the proposed Manchester stadium, makes final adjustments to the scale model. Photograph: Chris Harris

Wembley must play waiting game

By JOHN GOODBODY

WEMBLEY remains favourite to be the site of England's national stadium in the 21st century after a decision on the venue was deferred yesterday. Those running the Wembley bid were warned, however, that if they are not more flexible in negotiations, the 80,000-seater stadium, funded partly with National Lottery money, will be sited in Eastlands, Manchester.

The ten-man panel, representing football, athletics and rugby league, is determined that the winning arena will have suitable transportation and surroundings for spectators, while also having the right financial and management structures in place. Negotiations restart today, with the final decision to be announced within six months and the stadium to be completed by the year 2000.

Rodney Walker, chairman of the Sports Council and of the Rugby League, said: "We wanted to be in a very serious competitive bid situation. It gives us the opportunity to carry out tough negotiations."

The head-to-head battle between London and Manchester follows the discarding of Birmingham, Bradford and Sheffield because they failed to meet the necessary criteria. Wembley, which is planning

to knock down the stadium first erected in 1923 and build a new venue on the same site, may possess the necessary rail links. The steering group is unhappy, however, about its environs.

Walker said: "We are concerned that there has to be improvements to the site. We cannot have a national stadium in the 21st century which is set in a concrete jungle."

Robert Gordon Clark, a spokesman for Wembley, pointed out that Brent Council had submitted a bid for £15 million to the Single Regeneration Budget for an improvement to the landscaping and

minor roads in the vicinity of the stadium. A decision is expected next month.

The panel is also concerned about the operation of the venue. Under the proposed deal, the new stadium would be owned by a trust, made up of sports bodies, the representatives of spectators, London businessmen and local government. There would also be a majority of trust members on the stadium management company, with the stadium-operating company making up the remainder.

In return for transferring the stadium site to the trust, Wembley Stadium Ltd would

expect to be nominated as the operating company. The negotiations will now be over the length of contract and the return on the investment.

Wembley is, in effect, fighting for its life. If it does not win the nomination with the assurance of staging FA Cup finals, England internationals, and athletics and rugby league fixtures in the 21st century, the stadium will not be viable and will have to be knocked down.

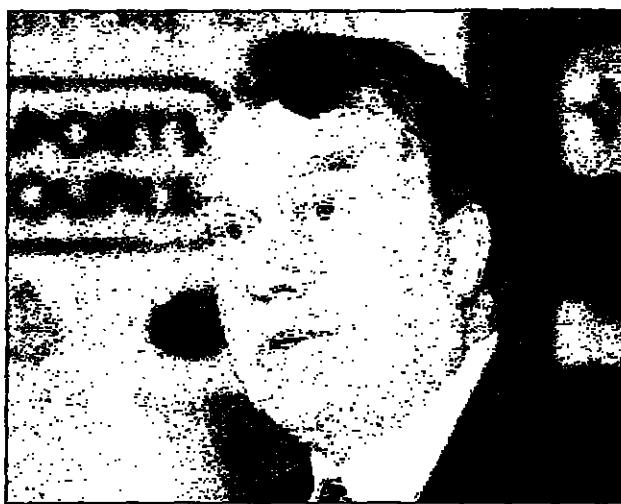
Manchester can afford to be more relaxed. It knows that when it has its application to stage the 2002 Commonwealth Games confirmed on Friday, it will still have a stadium, even though it may be a modest arena with temporary seating, built in Eastlands. The Sports Council has promised to support its bid.

Manchester, however, wants the national stadium and, with £30 million already spent by the government on preparing the site, it is the cheaper option at a cost of £134 million (compared to the £167

million of Wembley). Graham Stringer, leader of Manchester City Council, said: "I think we have overcome the prejudice that the only site for a national stadium is in London."

Stringer promised that the city would look again at the transport system after the panel criticised the parking and public transport at the proposed Eastlands venue. There is a widespread worry that the infrastructure is not suitable and that the metrolink will not be able to cope with the 80,000 crowds.

The unsuccessful candidates were resentful at the decision. Birmingham was ruled out because the stadium was on green belt land and its building would have led to a public inquiry. John Garside, chief executive of the Superdome bid for Bradford, said there were still plans to erect the arena, which has a sliding roof. He said: "It is essential to have more than one world-class sporting venue."



Walker announces that the decision is deferred

Internazionale decline
Arsenal's bid for Ince

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

BRUCE RIOCH'S ambitious team rebuilding at Arsenal, in which money appears to be no object, received a setback yesterday when Internazionale, of Milan, rejected his offer, believed to be £6.5 million, for Paul Ince, the England and former Manchester United player.

David Dein, the Arsenal vice-chairman, travelled to Italy at the weekend amid conflicting stories surrounding Ince, who left Old Trafford to join the Serie A club for £7.5 million during the summer. Dein's trip, ostensibly, was to arrange the second of four matches between Arsenal and Inter, which was part of the deal that took Dennis Bergkamp to Highbury in June.

It was subsequently revealed, however, that Dein spoke with Inter officials regarding the possibility of bringing Ince, who was born in Ilford, back to England. Reports had consistently suggested that Ince, 28, and his wife, Claire, were unable to settle, culturally and linguistically, in Italy.

Yesterday Dein's true objective — and the fact that his persuasive powers had failed — became apparent. Ken Friar, the Arsenal managing director, said: "We can confirm that we have been in discussions with Inter Milan

regarding Paul Ince but we have been advised that they are not prepared to transfer the player at this moment."

Whether Ince was prepared to consider such a swift return is doubtful. On Sunday he produced one of his best performances for his club in Inter's 1-1 derby draw with AC Milan.

Osvaldo Ardiles was dismissed as coach of Guadalajara yesterday 12 months after he was relieved of the manager's post at Tottenham Hotspur. The Mexican first-division club is to appoint Leo Beenhakker, the former coach of Holland, as the Argentinean's successor. Ardiles was in charge for only ten matches, in which his side won twice.

"I'm not going anywhere," Ince said, clearly agitated by the persistent rumours over his future. "After just three months here, it would be a failure, a great embarrassment for me, if I were to go. It has taken a while to settle, of course it has, but the worst is over now. I have no doubts about staying."

Ince struggled under Ottavio Bianchi, Inter's former coach, but feels more comfortable since Roy Hodg-

son, the English-born manager of Switzerland, took over. Ince said: "We are now playing a 4-4-2 formation, which suits me much better, and things seem to be working for me rather than against me."

Arsenal suffered only their second defeat in the FA Carling Premiership this season when they lost 1-0 against Bolton at Burnden Park on Monday night. David Platt making his comeback from injury, after an absence of nine matches, as a 72nd-minute substitute.

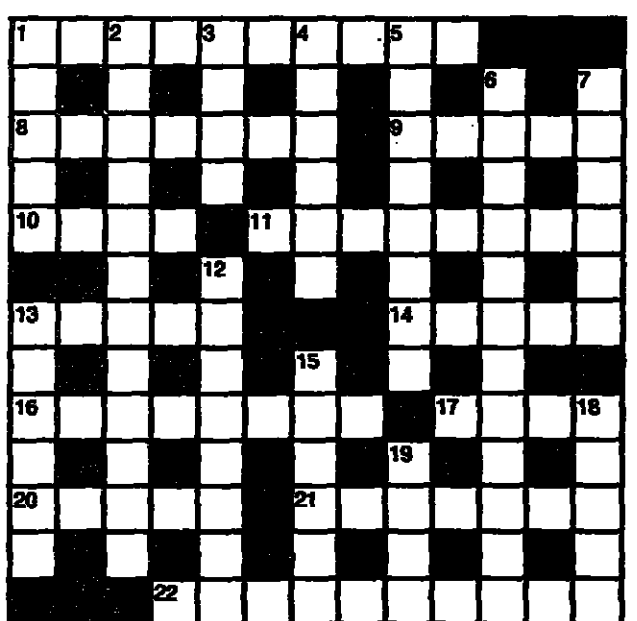
It is unlikely that Rioch will renew his attempt to buy Ince as the Italian league's transfer "window" remains open for only a week from tomorrow, giving Arsenal little time to prepare another bid.

They would also have to deal with Manchester United, who retain a first option on Ince, should he decide to leave Inter. "Until Inter talk to us, nothing can happen," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said yesterday.

Rioch, anyway, would leave the finer details to Dein. "It appears that Inter did not want to sell Paul, but I have not been involved in any of the negotiations," Rioch said. "My job is to nominate to the board of directors the players I would like to have at the club."

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 615



ACROSS

- 1 Orwell's satire on USSR (6,4)
- 8 Performance before 22 (7)
- 9 Severe Athenian lawgiver (5)
- 10 Tilt; written item series (4)
- 11 Inner and Outer islands (8)
- 13 Niggard (5)
- 14 Vegetable; sounds like burnt (5)
- 16 Shortage (8)
- 17 Dry champagne (4)
- 20 Deal with (3,2)
- 21 Group of three (gods) (7)
- 22 Official opening performance (5,5)

DOWN

- 1 Horrify (5)
- 2 A bit at a time (2,4,6)
- 3 Watertight (4)
- 4 Prescriber of English Usage; (arch.) bird catcher (5,6)
- 5 Non-Oxbridge (8)
- 6 Fully paid up (member) (4-8)
- 7 Ready for action; self-assured (6)
- 12 Sort of cabbage, branching heads (8)
- 13 Apply wrongly (6)
- 15 Standing (in society) (6)
- 18 Lover's meeting (5)
- 19 Bearing, appearance (4)

SOLUTION TO No. 614

ACROSS: 1 Bear 3 Fanciful 8 Core 9 Scorpion 11 Fever pitch 14 Ringer 15 Stride 17 Jolly Roger 20 Adelaide 21 Bred 22 Enrolled 23 Head

DOWN: 1 Backfire 2 Arriving 4 Arctic 5 Caricature 6 Fain 7 Lane 10 Free-for-all 12 Lingerie 13 Degraded 16 Sludge 18 Pure 19 Tear

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD NO 610

In association with BRITISH MIDLAND

ACROSS: 1 Wildcat 5 Arch 9 Vigil 10 Wrought 11 Casterbridge 12 Redden 13 Absurd 16 Feather-brain 19 Spartan 20 Troll 21 Lute 22 Endemic

DOWN: 1 Wavy 2 Laggard 3 Call the shots 4 Tawdry 6 Rigid 7 Hothead 8 Corroborated 12 Refusal 14 Uniform 15 Fringe 17 Apart 18 Bloc

1st PRIZE of a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic or international network is E. Dailey, Salisdon, Brighton.

2nd PRIZE of a return ticket to anywhere on BRITISH MIDLAND's domestic network is M. Clarke, Taunton, Somerset.

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Rowell's blueprint, page 45

Open...

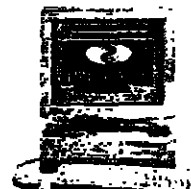
Your mainframe has gone to meet its maker. Now you have open systems, client/server architecture, distributed processing — call it what you like.

It works. And better still, costs less. But now there are 300 budding IT Directors on the network doing their own thing, wreaking havoc.

...View

Hewlett-Packard's OpenView is a suite of tools that work as your eyes and ears on the network. OpenView can also distribute software, reduce system bottlenecks and fix faults. What's more, it looks after multiple platforms including UNIX systems and personal computer networks.

View OpenView at a MorseData Technology Briefing. And prevent your "Open" dream becoming your worst nightmare.



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